

Laurel Hill Cemetery: A brief history

By
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Older than the city of Cave Junction, Laurel Hill Cemetery held its first burial in 1862. The family of little Henrietta Ann Hendershott chose the site for her grave on a little knoll. She was buried Nov. 10, 1862. She was only one year, one month and four days old when she died. There was no road from Waldo to Crescent City at that time. A trail for pack trains of mules was the only existing option for coming and going out of the Valley. Grants Pass was yet to be built and Cave Junction was built much later after this cemetery was begun.

This pioneer era cemetery, tucked away on a back road outside the town of Cave Junction, contains over 700 named gravesites and 100 unknown ones and is the largest cemetery

in rural Josephine County. Some local families have several generations buried there. It is unique in that while it is historic, it is still in use for burials.

Oct. 28, 1947, a deed was given to the Laurel Hill Association for 10 acres. Since that time more land has been added and there is plenty of room for the future.

The Laurel Chapel was started in April 1968; the purpose of which was to provide shelter during inclement weather for family and friends during grave side burials. This has proven to be a beneficial and appreciated addition.

It is recorded that in the year 1881 John M. Lewis, then County Treasurer of Multnomah County, Portland, hoped the name of the cemetery would be called Laurel Hill Cemetery. In August 1947, a group of people came together to organize a nonprofit cemetery association for the improvement and upkeep of the grounds, as well as to set up permanent records of all

burials, dates and names. The cemetery had held many names throughout the intervening years, but the name decided upon was Laurel Cemetery Association. No one at that time knew of the suggestion made so many years before by John M. Lewis.

In the year 1955 a wrought iron sign was placed over the entry roadway which read Laurel Cemetery. Also that year an appropriate marker of native marble was placed on the oldest grave in the cemetery that of Henrietta Ann Hendershott, 1862.

The Laurel Cemetery Association would like the general public to know that all of those who own lots or has some one buried in Laurel Cemetery is a member of the Association and has the right to attend the annual meeting, to elect the officers, and vote on any business of the Association at that meeting.

Guest opinion: by Audrey Moore

This morning Ferguson crossed my mind. Most are now familiar with the protests over the deaths of black men and children across this nation. From Ferguson to Seattle to Los Angeles people are speaking out, initiating civil disobedience and die-ins.

What I found most perplexing is why are we not seeing similar protests over the death of our planet? Knowing earth is being raped, scraped and murdered, where are the people? How is it they're not in the streets calling out the murderers by name and protesting their actions? At what point do the people who live on this planet say enough is enough and at least amass in protest, and not just occasionally when the likes of 350.Org calls for a rally. One would think every single day there would be thousands of people in the streets protesting the death of life on earth. Especially the younger generations, whose future is literally being decimated at the hands of the transnational petrochemical industry.

Although I personally believe they are pre-occupied on purpose. When you consider their parents, who have been walking this planet while the destruction has been taking place, find time to do little to nothing to stop the harm, what hope could their children then find in taking to the streets? Do they protest their excuse ridden parents for not

protecting their future? Or do they protest those doing the actual harm, or both? A true paradox! Hence, they stayed tuned out, seeking remedy through whatever means available, which in essence is staying numb to a reality that if not bleak is in all probability terrifying.

The question for their parents, grandparents and all who surely must realize our planet is in serious troubles is this: what are you thinking? What excuses are you manufacturing to ignore the obvious? What rationales do you muster to validate ignoring the annihilation of our home? What crosses your mind when you look into the eyes of your children, or when you're enjoying a sunset, or partaking of earth's bounty?

When I retired it never occurred to me I would face the death of the planet I've been in love with since childhood. From her rivers and streams, to her woods and fields, to her critters and beings, I never once fathomed that life on earth could ever be in jeopardy on my watch. The irony being the places I ventured and enjoyed as a child are all now gone, either plowed under or over by modern "development". One thing I certainly never fathomed was that my own species would be responsible for the slaughter of all I hold dear. And it certainly never occurred to me until realizing what was taking place that it would be our human complacency that is equally responsible. No, we

are not the ones polluting our rivers, air and soil, killing our oceans, devastating the last remaining forests and prairies, or forcing 200 species into extinction each and every day. Yet our complacency has allowed this carnage to take place, even with an "environmental movement". The reality is, all living systems on earth are now in decline, 50 years after its creation. The mind attempts to grapple with how that is possible? Yet look around you. Look at what the "environmental" groups are actually accomplishing, as in little to nothing. The proof is in the pudding or rather the destruction earth faces at every turn.

No, it's not just the transnational petrochemical industry responsible for the extermination of life on earth; it is the void, the silence, the lack of resistance from those in the know. All who choose for whatever rationale or reason to make excuses for not doing all in their power to protect what they love; be it their children, their family or our planet; bleeding before them, in desperate need of all the help we can muster.

When does earth warrant a die-in? When does she warrant a funeral for all that has been lost? When does earth warrant a movement, of resistance that begins and does not end until the death and destruction does?

Siskiyou gets a new fence



(Courtesy photo for *The Illinois Valley News*)

On Saturday, nine SFI volunteers & employees, along with 15 BLM employees from the Grants Pass Resource Area, built a 700 foot rustic pole fence on the joint properties to stop unauthorized ATV trespass that has been causing damage to botanically-sensitive serpentine meadow habitat, especially in the Eight Dollar Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). It was paid for by a Title II grant. Thank you to BLM's Rachel Showalter for getting the materials ordered, delivered and organizing her colleagues.

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