

# Cemetery: Remnant found of Pauper's Cemetery

Continued from Page 1

en grave marker. ... He didn't know what to do with it and so he put it up in a tree. So he was looking for that and, right there overlooking Ninth Street, we found a big board wedged into a tree."

They took a photo of it in place so they could document where it was found and then took the sign for safekeeping as they feared residents of a nearby transient camp might use it for a bonfire.

Next, they contacted the city of Astoria, the Clatsop County Historical Society and the state Historical Cemetery Association, letting them know they'd made a significant find at the site and had it in their possession.

The Clatsop County Cemetery often is referred to in county and state records as the Pauper Cemetery.

The Pauper Cemetery was 4 1/2 acres and its first recorded

burial was Nov. 10, 1885, according to the Oregon Burial Site Guide by Dean H. Byrd, published in 2001. There were fewer than 250 burials before it was replaced in 1898 by Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Ellsberg has found records of burials at the site dating back to the 1860s, he said.

The book "Necktie Parties: A History of Legal Executions in Oregon" by Diane Goeres-Gardner describes the case of John R. Reiter, a German immigrant buried in the Pauper Cemetery.

Reiter was sentenced to hang for the August 1892 killing of a boarding house mate in Astoria.

The cemetery was the final resting place for everybody in the county prior to 1900 and after that was used to bury those without resources as late as 1925.



The marker reads "All is lost, but hope" and includes the words "Lesu, Lesu." Lesu likely refers to Jesus, Newton said Wednesday. In classical Latin, Jesus is spelled lesous or lesus.

"It has to be at least 100 years old, maybe 140," Ellsberg said of the marker. "If I had my 'druthers, I'd like to remake the entrance to the old graveyard from the original photo, with the sign up on eight-foot posts, and a little rock garden in front, with a plaque or some sign giving the history."

After Ocean View Cemetery opened, those who could afford it moved their ancestors' remains there. That's when Van Dusen was moved and given a large grave monument.

A 1903 article in the Daily Astorian warns the kin of others buried in the "paupers" cemetery to quickly make the move.

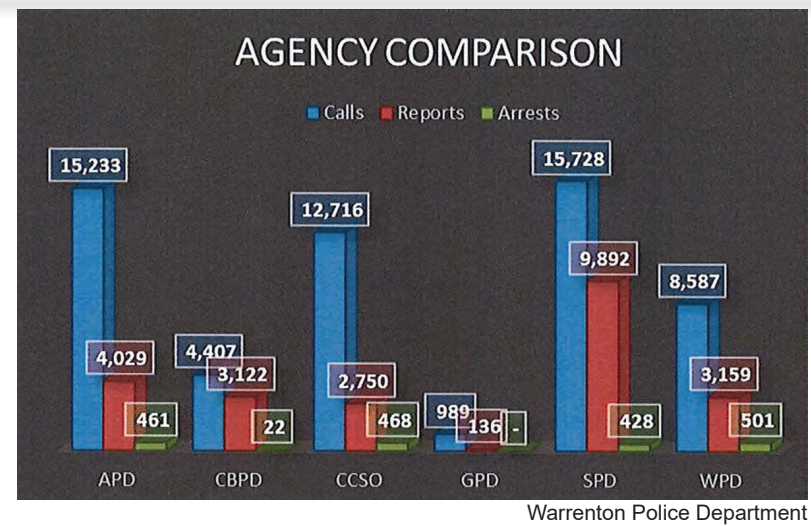
During World War I, when a railroad spur line was built through the area for the harvesting of the area's spruce wood, many of the gravesites were disrupted and unearthed bones were possibly moved elsewhere, Ellsberg said.

The state will make a decision about where the entrance marker will go. Newton hopes it can be placed with the Warrenton Historical Museum and a replica returned to the original location.

Newton showed off the relic during Tuesday night's Warrenton City Commission meeting.

Ellsberg just wants to ensure the history of the place isn't lost and he was giddy Wednesday over the important historical find.

"I'm not religious, but that had to be an act of God if there ever was one," he said.



## Crime: Highest for arrest cases

Continued from Page 1

this category of crime was referred to as "disturbances."

Person crimes showed a 16 percent rise, from 830 in 2020 to 964 in 2021.

"It looks substantial," Workman said. "I correspond that to the huge increase in homeless calls."

Other crime categories that went up:

- Driving under the influence of intoxicants rose 11 percent, from 27 cases in 2020 to 30 cases in 2021.

- Property crimes increased 4 percent, from 1,191 cases in 2020 to 1,239 cases in 2021.

- Calls involving the homeless rose a whopping 102 percent last year. Calls involving aggressive contacts with the homeless rose 400 percent.

"I don't know whether the homeless population is up or if it's just changing," Workman told commissioners.

Last year, when owners logged wooded property on Highway 101 between Warrenton KIA and Ocean Crest, it removed an area that had been consistently packed with transient camps.

Two crime categories took a dip last year:

- Traffic events decreased 17 percent, from 2,000 cases in 2020 to 1,662 in 2021.

"This has been affected by the continued (COVID-related) moratoriums on expired plates ... and being shorthanded on patrol so there were fewer traffic stops," according to the report.

- Drug/narcotics incidents dropped 31 percent, from 58 in 2020 to 40 in 2021.

The drop is due to Senate Bill 110, which went into effect last year. It decriminalizes many drug-possession crimes.

"I think there are a lot more people busy distributing drugs with very little consequence," Workman told commissioners. "Unfortunately, we took the stick away. ... If you're in the throes of addiction, you don't choose treatment."

The reduction in penalties can make an impact on cases involving DUII and property crimes, as well.

Warrenton is a small town, and when the department is short-handed -- as it was through much of 2021 -- it can affect statistics, he said.

Fewer officers on the road equates to fewer traffic stops, for instance.

### PUBLIC NOTICE WARRENTON CITY COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT - 02/05/22

The Warrenton City Commission will hold their Annual Retreat on Saturday, February 5, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 225 S. Main Avenue, Warrenton, Oregon 97146. The purpose of the retreat is to discuss City Commission goals and direction.

The meeting location is accessible to the disabled. An interpreter for the hearing impaired may be requested under the terms of ORS 192.630 by contacting Dawne Shaw, City Recorder, at 503-861-0823 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting so appropriate assistance can be provided.

## Do your kids a favor.

Make your funeral, cremation or cemetery plans in advance. We can help.

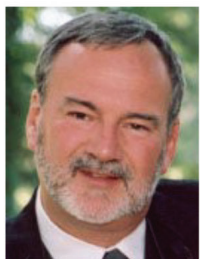


## Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Services

Serving the area since 2008

1213 Franklin Ave., Astoria  
503 338-7200

www.OceanViewAstoria.com



Brian Dutton, Owner