

# Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery Assoc. Inc.

Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery Association, Inc. provides for restoration projects and ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and helps to sustain a part of the history of the City of Milwaukie's people into the future.

## Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 3— Third Quarter, 2007



### Weeds Be Gone...

We thank Mark and Keith Neubauer and Rob Hambright who have custom built, from scratch, a removable bracket (above) which mounts on our riding lawnmower. The overall cost, including the sprayer, tank and all was less than 50% of what one would cost (provided such a bracket were available for purchase, which it is not).

The gents figure that the first pass through the entire cemetery will be the most costly for weed killer, however, **Coastal Farm** in the Oregon City Shopping Center has given us a discount on the price of the tank, spraying attachments and some of the product, for which we thank them.

Since the unit can provide overall coverage, as well as specifically target areas, we are all looking forward to fewer weeds which will cut down on the amount of weed-eating maintenance into the future. By next spring we should have many fewer pesky weeds and a much nicer overall landscape.

Thanks to all who made this happen!!! And at last inspection the weeds are wilting!

### *Clean-up Get-Togethers at Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery Scheduled... (weather permitting)*

Sept. 22

9AM-12PM

*Bring your gloves and simple yard tools such as plastic rakes, trimmers, etc.*

### *Answering a Special Request*

On Memorial Day, this year, we received a request from one of our families to have a holly tree removed. It is growing in the center of a family plot and should be taken out before the roots damage the old concrete curb of the plot.

We asked the family to contact all of the known family members and get their written consent to remove the tree and they have done so.

The work party/clean-up date set for September 22nd will focus on removing this tree and cleaning the site, with the help of the family that is making the request.

Any requests for removing vegetation on the Cemetery grounds will be handled in this manner in the future due to the need to preserve old plantings such as heritage roses and yet maintain the integrity of the historical grounds.

#### **Current Board of Directors:**

Mark Neubauer—President & Trustee 503-659-8087  
Dolly Macken-Hambright—Sec/Treas & Trustee 503-659-8908  
Madalaine Bohl—Museum Director & Trustee 503-659-5267  
J.R. Hambright—Cemetery Consultant 503-659-7582  
Carol Wiley—Trustee 503-654-7034

## The Great Chicken Caper...

Friday, August 10th, when the volunteers were returning our riding lawn mower to its location at the cemetery (see front for work done to the mower), they discovered that someone had hidden 240 lbs. of rock-solid frozen chicken on the grounds!



They guessed the poultry was not left for the residents to use and the Milwaukie Police Dept. was contacted. Officer Huteson duly took a report, and photos were taken. Our members involved contacted a local charity and the chicken was delivered to them before it could thaw, then cooked and served to those less fortunate rather than being allowed to go to waste. We have not heard of any follow-up so do not know if anyone has reported missing their chicken to date!

**While this makes a rather amusing story** with an ironic end and the thieves foiled, the fact of the matter is that open-air historical locations such as pioneer cemeteries are pretty vulnerable to visits from all sorts of people with all sorts of agendas. We have found many alcohol containers, some clothing and assorted trash on the cemetery grounds. The Milwaukie PD regularly visits the Cemetery on patrol and rarely sees anyone there... and yet we find "leavings" and fervently hope people just visit and do no harm!

The state has laws regarding vandalism on historical properties which hold very stiff penalties for damage to such a site. We can only hope we never have to depend on law to make folks aware of the enormous significance of their own history!



## Our Inventory and Transcription Project...

Do to the simple fact that we have no actual, formal burial book record of interments at Milwaukie Pioneer, and what records we do have are of somewhat limited accuracy, we are doing an inventory of all records we have in conjunction with the markers in place on the grounds.

When the project is complete, we will have the best record possible of who is buried where, complete with photos of all of the headstones and transcriptions of what the markers depict when designs and other information is also present. We have spent considerable time and effort learning what certain designs and symbols mean, according to various resources.

While we are somewhat less than 1/3rd finished with the project we have already encountered some surprises...

We have been quite amazed at the number of Woodman of the World markers we have, once we learned to recognize what the symbols meant. Not only do we have the highly visible markers that resemble cut tree trunks, but there are quite a few with relief seals and other indicators of the organization, along with Mason and other organizational markings.

Once the project is completed, we do not intend to publish the results, however, any one wishing to have a look at what has been done may contact us and we will gladly share... including our burial permit/receipt information and so forth. We would ask that those who request information also share their family's story with

**Please remember annual dues!!!**

Annual dues \$10/YEAR

Lifetime membership \$200

make check payable to, and mail to:  
Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery Assoc.

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