



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

Volume 2, Number 1

September 2007

Letter from Your President

Dear Friends of the Savannah Pioneer Cemetery,

I open by saying thank you to your Board of Directors for their sacrifice and hard work. A special thanks to all of you who are helping keep the Savannah in a state of preservation.



Edwin D. (Randy) Wiggins

These recent months have brought some challenges and some regrets. Eric Chase resigned from the Board. He will be missed. Eric was elected president during the troubled times in June 2006. He has guided us forward and is credited with stabilizing and making many positive changes. We wish him well and much success.

Your Board is making every effort to be good stewards of our general operating funds. Several Board members are performing tasks that required a salary in the past. In reducing our costs, a private landscaping contractor has been hired. The contractor will be furnishing complete ground maintenance at a reduced cost. The very difficult decision was made to lay off Jack Bezner and his son Daniel. Jack has been an exceptional employee for thirty-six years. Jack fully understands that going out of the business of being a direct employer saves the Association considerable funds. Jack will be available on an as-needed basis. We wish Jack and Daniel the best in their future endeavors.

The people of Rosemead are reaching out to help preserve the Savannah Pioneer Cemetery. Bob Trepanier and Barbara Murphy approached the Rosemead City Council with the idea for an Oktoberfest. The Festival would generate monies which would benefit the preservation of the cemetery. Mayor John Tran has been a supporter of such an event. I spoke before the Rosemead City Council in August. We were well-supported by Bob, Barbara, Board members and friends. The council voted

unanimously to support the Festival. Your Board will have two booths by the cemetery's North pedestrian gate on Mission Drive. David Hassler is developing a guided walking tour in the cemetery. Donations will be appreciated, but not mandatory to enjoy a tour and the tours will take place only during daylight hours. This should become an annual event. I urge everyone to be supportive and attend.

Our current general maintenance bank balance is running very low. We will be seeking additional donations from our core members to sustain operating expenses. Please donate and continue to support your Board. Even small donations make a difference. Maintaining the appearance of the Savannah is imperative to fund raising, sales, and, of course, exhibits pride in our historical charge.

Numerous vacant grave sites have been identified. We are preparing to offer them for sale in the immediate future. If you have a desire to purchase a plot at the Savannah, please contact our association for further details.

I am honored to move into the Presidency and have been warmly received by the Board. My desire is to establish a fund which will preserve Savannah permanently. Thank you for your continuing support.

Edwin D. Wiggins
President

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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

“The past is not dead history, it is the living material out of which man makes himself and builds the future.”

René Jules Dubos, 1901-1982
 French-American Pulitzer-Prize winning author



An Early Pioneer . .

The Jesse B. Blue Family

Jesse B. Blue, Sr. was born in 1892 and served as a member of the 330 Unit of the Ohio National Guard in 1916. On June 22, 1918 his unit arrived in France to fight World War I. At the end of the war in 1919 he returned home to Ohio as a Major.

For health reasons his doctor suggested he leave Ohio and come to California. In 1924 Jesse and his wife, Pansy and two children; Burl age six and Barbara age four moved to El Monte. The Blue family bought a lot in the Savannah area between El Monte and Rosemead where they built their family home. The family soon grew with the addition of three more daughters; Katie, Annebel and Alyce.

Jesse (J.B.) Blue became active in the development of the Rosemead area as a realtor; he served on the local school board for many years and helped to organize the local Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President for several terms.

Pansy M. Blue passed away in 1932 and Jesse B. Blue, Sr. passed away in 1963. Both are buried near the “Magnificent Camphor Tree” in Savannah Memorial Park.

Submitted by Burl Blue, son of Jesse B. Blue

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 27, 2007 **Oktoberfest**
 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 A street fair on Mission Drive behind the Cemetery
January 2008 General Membership Meeting
 Details to follow



Cemetery Beautification (Blue second from right)

Source: *The City of Rosemead - An Historical Sketchbook 1959 - 1984 Silver Anniversary Edition*

Financial News

	06/01/07-	
	08/31/07	To Date
Donations	\$860.00	\$14,347.00

Help these funds grow!! Send a donation:

Savannah Memorial Park
 P. O. Box 4247
 El Monte, California 91734

DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?

As part of the Board's efforts to maintain our cemetery, clarifying burial records has been an important project. Records exist in multiple formats, including approximately 3,700 note cards. After going through all of them, there were only eight cards that could not be reconciled with the other records. If you know something about any of these, we would be glad to hear from you.

- M. A. Briggs (or H.A. or H.V.)**
- Martha Briggs (or S. Martha or S. Maria)**
- Saundra J. Daney**
- Baby Denison**
- Baby Janss**
- Leon Justice**
- Emma Shanquist**
- Nancy Tweedy**

NOTICE OF MEETING

January 2008 General Membership Meeting
Details to follow

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



- Don & Mary Alley
- Warren Bower
- Amy & Dwain Crum
- Robert Ellis
- Nancy (Wilson) Goldbloom
- Don & Edith Harrington
- Elaine & Darrel Kelty
- Elaine & Delvin Kelty
- Daniel Munoz
- Jeanne Schiada
- Mike Shively
- Jack & Naomi Smith
- Lloyd & Mary Tippet
- Sarah Wilson

OKTOBERFEST

The City of Rosemead invites one and all to attend their 1st Halloween/Oktoberfest Fundraiser to help save/preserve the Savannah Cemetery



Saturday, Oct 27, 2007
10:00 am to 9:00 pm
Mission Drive at Rosemead Park



There will be over 100 booths with food, arts & crafts, and much more.
 Tours of the Savannah Cemetery with some of its historic highlights.
 All sorts of activities for kids will be held at Rosemead Park all day
 (Kiddy Carnival, contests for kids 12 and under, prizes for best costumes, pumpkin carving contest, moon bounce, petting zoo and a Haunted House located at the Rosemead Pool)
 Oktoberfest Beer Garden to be held at the Moose Lodge
 Live Music and Entertainment throughout the day
 Raffle for Big Ticket Items

The main focus of this event is to raise money for Savannah Cemetery. It is intended that this event will be held annually to benefit the Cemetery and we hope that you will try to come and support this event.

If you are interested in sponsoring or purchasing a booth, please contact **Pedro Castillo (626)569-2266** or **Barbara Murphy (626)285-8489**

From the Past

Los Angeles Times – May 28, 1905

EL MONTE.

REBUILD AFTER FIRE

El Monte, May 27 – The several business establishments which were burned out in the recent fire have all been reopened in temporary quarters. New buildings will go up to take the places of those which were destroyed. W. L. Dodson has begun the construction of a business block 40x48 feet to be finished in Mission style. L. Kauffman & Son will commence at once on the construction of a department store building. J. D. Cleminson will build a modern brick block. All the new structures will be much better than those which were burned.

Readers' Comments Wanted

Please submit your comments, a family biography for publication (please limit to a maximum of 500 words), or just a brief paragraph about what Savannah Pioneer Cemetery means to you. Email: SavannahCemetery@yahoo.com; or contact us at:

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