



Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

Volume 2, Number 2

December 2007

Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Letter from Your President

As we approach the close of 2007, may I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Your Board of Directors has doubled its efforts in the last few months. I am deeply appreciative for their work. You may recall that an active citizen of the City of Rosemead, Barbara Murphy, helped persuade the Rosemead City Council to sponsor an Oktoberfest festival. The goal was to help raise funds for the preservation of Savannah Memorial Park. That event took place on October 27, 2007. It was an all day event moving into the evening. Approximately 10,000 attended and participated in the event. It was a spectacular success not only for Savannah, but the entire community of Rosemead.



Edwin D. (Randy) Wiggins

Our landscaper had the Cemetery looking wonderful. David Hassler, your Vice President, and Gerry Fallon designed a historic walking tour. It was guided by many board members and friends. Numerous new friends were made for Savannah through this excellent educational tour. Approximately \$455 was collected in donations at the Savannah booths. Janice Wiggins White was the mover and motivator at our booths. Where she gets the energy no one knows. Board members' families also pitched in, including children and grandchildren. Those are the things that make us all proud of Savannah and what it represents.

The El Monte Historical Society manned a booth and earned a contribution of \$200, which they donated to Savannah. We owe them many thanks for their generosity in this and for their many other contributions of time and space for our meetings. El Monte, the End of The Santa Fe Trail, was home to the majority of the occupants of Savannah Memorial Park. If you have fund raising ideas in which the City of El Monte could participate, please share them with your Board.

On October 20, 2007 Savannah Memorial Park was presented with a check from the City of Rosemead by Mayor John Tran, at a special City Council meeting. The check, representing the proceeds from Oktoberfest, totaled \$27,103. Mr. Neil Sorenson of the Rosemead Moose Lodge,

donated \$1,100 from their beer garden and other contributing Moose lodges in the San Gabriel Valley area. To date this was the largest fund raising event to help preserve Savannah Pioneer Cemetery. It is hoped Oktoberfest will be an annual event in Rosemead next to the Cemetery. We cannot expect a comparable donation next year, but will be an active participant.

Some special people deserve recognition for this great event. Mr. Stephen Gill, Vice Chairman of M.C. Gill Corporation, sponsored our booths and made a sizeable donation to help Savannah meet some urgent needs. Rosemead's Mayor John Tran and City Manager Oliver Chi worked hard in our support to bring this event to Rosemead. Our thanks to all members of the Rosemead City Council and the City employees for their hard work in making this community event a success.

Barbara Murphy made this event happen. Her energy and organizational skills were the determining factor in bringing this event to fruition. Frances Chavez, always at Barbara's side making things work. These two ladies, through planning and execution, are truly friends of Savannah Pioneer Cemetery.

Please continue to support the preservation of Savannah through donations, volunteering, and attending our annual meetings. Without your help we cannot move forward with fund raising and keeping Savannah well-maintained in honor our beloved families and pioneers.

Sincerely,
Edwin (Randy) Wiggins
President



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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

Thornton Wilder



An Early Pioneer . . .

ARTHUR V. SLACK

Arthur V. Slack, a native of El Monte and the Son of William Slack . . . , was born in 1871.

He remained at home assisting his father on the ranch near El Monte and attending public schools until he was seventeen years of age. From that time until in 1896, he was engaged in the butcher's trade being employed in different places in this district and in Los Angeles. In 1896 he started a meat market of his own at 27th and Main Streets in Los Angeles, which he conducted until 1911 when he expanded his activities to include the wholesale and live stock branch of his business. In 1916 he disposed of his business and retired, investing his capital in real estate in Los Angeles and Huntington Park. In the latter named place he purchased a comfortable residence where he and Mrs. Slack have since resided.

In 1892, he was married to Miss Cora May Robertson, a native of Indiana whose parents were John and Catherine Robertson also natives of Indiana who in 1881, came to San Diego and, nine years later moving to Los Angeles. To this union three children were born, namely: Harold A., of Roscoe, California; Hazel D. (Mrs. G.W. Nichols) of Huntington Beach; and Mildred C., (Mrs. C.E. Sarff) of Whittier.

In political matters Mr. Slack is a staunch Democrat, while his religion is the practice of the Golden Rule. Until a few weeks preceding the publication of this work, Mr. and Mrs. Slack, content and happy in the realization of moderate success, and gratified with having contributed their share to the upbuilding of the

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 12, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting (Board and Committee members only)

January 19, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting All interested persons are welcome.

El Monte Historical Museum 3150 Tyler Avenue, El Monte 626-444-3813



communities in which they have lived, resided at 7018 Rugby Avenue, in Huntington Park. The family was saddened July 3, 1937 by the unexpected death of Mrs. Slack at their summer home in Seal Beach. Mr. Slack continues to reside in Huntington Park.

Source: http://www.cagenweb.com/re/losangeles/ElMonteBios/Slack_ArthurV.htm (Works Progress Administration Project, ca. 1930s) [Editor's Note: Arthur V. Slack died 20 Jun 1955 and is buried at Savannah Memorial Park.]



OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Stephen Gill, M. C. Gill Corporation, Sponsor

- | | |
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| Victoria Guagliardo | Sarah Wilson |
| Del & Aileen Harral | Thomas Wilson |
| Don & Edith Harrington | |



Eagle Scout
Michael (with
Randy Wiggins)
and his planting
project.

Financial News

	09/01/07- 11/30/07	To Date
Donations	\$7,200	\$23,547
Memorial Donations	\$1,246	\$1,246
Oktoberfest	\$28,218	\$28,218

Help these funds grow!! Send a donation:
 El Monte Cemetery Association
 P. O. Box 4247
 El Monte, California 91734



Sue Redding, Gerry Fallon, and Sylvia Villanueva at one of Savannah's booths at Oktoberfest.



Happy Holidays
to
our supporters, volunteers, friends,
and all extended family members
of our pioneers.
May peace and joy be with you in the New Year.



El Monte Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 4247
El Monte, California 91734