



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

Volume 3, Number 2

December 2008

Letter from Your President

Dear Family and Friends of Savannah,

I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We should all pray for our country, soldiers, and leaders. Many Americans have been severely impacted by the recent events in the financial markets.

I ask you all to review the past two years of newsletters and appreciate how blessed we have been at Savannah Memorial Park. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to your Board of Directors and the many volunteers for helping bring us this far.

A Veterans Day Ceremony was held to honor all of those that have served the U.S.A. We owe our freedoms to those who have served our great nation. American Legion Post #261 (El Monte) and Post #748 (San Gabriel/Rosemead) participated in honoring WWII hero Wilbur Carmicheal. Pvt. Carmicheal was awarded two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. His bronze star was awarded posthumously for valorous actions against the enemy in Italy on 28 May 1944. A new headstone replaced his missing stone and was unveiled at the ceremony.

The new wrought iron fence along Valley Boulevard as well as the landscaping is complete. These beautiful improvements were made possible by a generous gift from Mayor John Tran and the Rosemead City Council. Please visit Savannah and see what a difference this work has made in the appearance of Savannah and beautification of the community. The second annual Oktoberfest was a success for Rosemead City and all that worked so hard to organize it. We had two informational booths and gave free tours of the cemetery grounds. It was hot for an October day which impacted the number of people taking our tours. Our donations were down significantly from 2007. We did expect a decrease this year, but are grateful for all help received. Our sponsor M.C. Gill Corporation purchased an informational booth next to our location. Their participation and outreach was warmly received by the people who visited their booth.

M.C. Gill Corporation, through their Chairman, Stephen Gill, gave a generous donation to help purchase all necessary materials to rehabilitate our maintenance building. We will replace the old roof and construct a kiosk which will be on the west

side of the building. We are requesting help with this project. Please see the note in this newsletter for details.

The Savannah Memorial Park Cemetery Annual Meeting will be on January 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. It will again be held at the El Monte Historical Museum, 3150 N. Tyler Avenue, El Monte. This meeting is very important. Your attendance and participation is imperative to the preservation of Savannah. Please don't miss this meeting. Your Board of Directors needs your ideas, support, and service.

I have one final request for legacy members of Savannah. If you have vintage photos of the cemetery and/or of funerals taking place there, please contact us so we may obtain copies. These photos are very important to our research and historical fact finding.

Sincerely,
Edwin (Randy) Wiggins
President

Savannah Cemetery SOS

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOME ABLE-BODIED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PUT A ROOF ON OUR SHED AND MAKE OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THAT AREA. WE WILL BE CLEANING OUT THE SHED AND GETTING RID OF OLD LUMBER, ETC. THERE WILL BE SOME LANDSCAPING TO DO ALONG THE SIDE OF THE SHED AND JUST NORMAL "MANLY" DUTIES.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CALL:

SUE REDDING AT (626) 443-7880

OR

LEAVE A MESSAGE AT (626) 287-4838

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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.

Henry James

**An Early Pioneer . . .****Asa Ellis**

Asa Ellis served one term as county supervisor. He was elected in 1864. Born in St. Louis, Mo., on July 6, 1817, he was the son of Benjamin Ellis, a lumberman. Young Ellis followed in his father's footsteps, learning the lumber trade and becoming a successful businessman.

Ellis became involved in politics and served as sheriff and assessor. In 1849 he was appointed regent of the University of Missouri and served until he left for California in 1852. For the next nine years he resumed his career as a lumberjack in Central California, and later in the redwoods of Santa Cruz County.

In 1861 ill health brought him to Los Angeles County. He bought land near El Monte and established himself as a rancher. In 1864 he was elected county supervisor and served until 1866. In 1867 he was elected a state assemblyman. He also served two later terms, 1871-72 and 1877-78. In the Legislature he pushed to protect agricultural land from the cattle ranchers. Up until then, it was a long established custom of allowing cattle to roam freely over the plains, thereby damaging the land. Ellis spearheaded a bill on Feb. 14, 1872, protecting farmers and their land. This bill helped change the growth of Los Angeles County from a grazing pasture to an agricultural and horticultural focus.

Honors included membership in the Lexington Masonic Lodge and the San Gabriel Valley Farmers' Club.

In 1883 he became county tax collector and in 1885 President Cleveland appointed him collector of Internal Revenue in San Francisco. Upon his retirement, Ellis moved to Fresno, where he devoted his efforts to developing irrigation systems and horticulture on a large scale.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

January 10, 2008

General Meeting

All interested in Savannah, please attend
10:00 a.m. at El Monte Historical Museum
(3150 Tyler Avenue, El Monte)

He died Aug. 20, 1890. He was survived by a daughter, Victoria Ellis; a son, Frank Ellis; and two grandsons. (Source: <http://lacounty.info/aellis.pdf>)

An Assemblyman, representing Los Angeles County, and a native of St. Louis, Missouri. Asa Ellis came to California in 1853; married; has a very interesting family; is a farmer by occupation, and a staunch Democrat. This is his third session in the Assembly, an evidence in itself of his sterling worth, and the confidence reposed in him by his

constituents. His oldest son, Frank, aged 19, is one of the Assistant Enrolling Clerks of the Assembly, and his son Charlie, aged 13, is a Page of the Senate. In his native State, Mr. Ellis served his county as Sheriff for years. He was also one of the Regents of the State University of Missouri for six years. In Los Angeles County he has served one term as member of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ellis is large and portly, with a smooth face and a genial disposition, and a voice as musical as the rippling of the silvery brook. In the discharge of his official duties, he is dignified and respectful, and could readily pass for a preacher; but the nearest he ever approached that profession was to serve on the Committee on Public Morals. Divested of his official toggery, he is the essence of wit and dry humor, and a social companion, and a gentleman in the full acceptance of the term. He never bores the Assembly with long speeches, but is industrious and punctual, and one of the reliable men of the session. At home he is alike respected by Democrats and Republicans, as, in matters of general interest to his constituents, he knows no party or clique, but claims to be a representative of the whole people. He resides in Savannah, Los Angeles County.

(Source: *Pen Portraits, In Sacramento City, during the Session of the Legislature of 1877-8, Compiled by R.R. Parkinson. San Francisco, 1878.*)

Financial News

	09/01/08- 11/30/08	To Date*
Donations	\$4,356	\$30,238
Memorial Donations		\$1,111
Oktoberfest		\$28,218
Plot Sales/Services		\$7,550
Yard Sales		\$1,017

* "To Date" is from September 2006.

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

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



- Addleman & Sons
- Don & Mary Alley
- Andre Landscaping
- Harold & Sally Baquet
- Joyce Bayless
- Juanita & Don Boehner
- Warren Bower
- Reba & Ken Britton
- Jessa Brower
- Myrna Brown
- Greg & Carolyn Carter
- Darlene Cravea
- Donna Crippen
- Amy & Dwain Crum
- Robert Ellis
- Erin Faith
- Gerry Fallon
- Friends of South Gate
- C.C. Museum
- Nancy & Stan Goldbloom
- Maedale Gondora
- Don & Edith Harrington
- Marlene Hudson
- Janet Chin Youth Group
- Joseph Keller
- Darrell & Marilyn Kelty
- S. Diane Knaefler
- Carol Marburger
- Donald Munoz
- Neighborhood Church of Rosemead
- Jeanne Nesbitt
- Nem Nuong Ninh Hoa Restaurant
- Julia Ochsner
- Sue Redding
- Marcia & Fred Roberts
- John Rollofson
- Rosemead Supermarket
- San Gabriel Valley Budhistic Assoc.
- Irmalee Schumacher
- Joan Skaggs
- Robyn & Bruce Steele
- Jean Terberg
- James & Diane Tollesfson
- Sylvia Villanueva
- John B. Wallace
- Janice Wiggins White
- Randy Wiggins
- Bob & Janet Wilbur
- Sarah Wilson
- Thomas & Marilyn Wilson

Veterans Day 2008



Unveiling of replacement headstone of WWII hero, Wilbur N. Carmichael



Gun Salute, American Legion Post #261, El Monte



*Detective Dan Glass
El Monte Police Dept.*



*Bob Bretz, Commander
American Legon Post #748, San Gabriel*

Warmest wishes to everyone with sincere gratitude for your help and support. We look forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous 2009!



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