



Luper Marker

Vol. VII – September 2016

Published by Luper Cemetery, Inc.

-Welcome Dawn to Dusk-

Luper Cemetery, also known as Irving or Baker Cemetery, is open to walkers and bicyclists, dawn to dusk, every day. We enjoy sharing this historic site with you. Thank you for respecting the value of this Pioneer Cemetery.

2016 Veterans Day

This year Veterans Day comes on a Friday. In order to honor our Veterans buried at Luper Cemetery and to provide more opportunity for visitors to be able to drive back to the cemetery, we will be leaving the gates open Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, November 11–13, 9 am-4 pm.

To date, we have identified 3 Veterans buried at Luper: Sergeant Major Elias Brodie, Lester Newman Jr., and Corporal William Bushnell.

For the three days we will also have our biographical signboards throughout the cemetery.

Visit www.lupercemetery.com for more information about the cemetery and its history.

Highlights from our 2016 Memorial Weekend Open House

Daniel S. Owen, great-great grandson of James F. McClure who is buried here, recently published his book, The Lost Rescue: Parallel Diaries of the Advance Party from the Lost Wagon Train of 1853. This book, based on years of field research as well as historical research, contains fascinating information regarding both the 1845 lost wagon train with Stephen Meek and the 1853 Lost Wagon Train with Elijah Elliott. As the title indicates, the book contains the diaries of 2 members of the Advance Party shown in parallel form.

Daniel, and his wife Donna, spent all 3 days over Memorial weekend at the cemetery. It was a 3-day book signing party, as well as a chance to have individual tours with information on the 18 members of the 1853 Lost Wagon Train who are buried at Luper Cemetery. Luper Cemetery has 24 copies to sell for \$15.00 each plus shipping. See our website for details.

Daniel also helped us put together a self-guided walking tour brochure. This provides

more information on our Veterans, the 18 members of the 1853 Lost Wagon Train, and a few additional community members.

In addition to having Daniel & Donna, the 4th, 5th & 6th Grade class of the Ridgeline Montessori School allowed us to display their school project. Under the instruction of Clint Moore, the class spent several months studying the Oregon Trail in a unique way. From an article by BRING Recycling: “To study Oregon’s pioneer history, his class role-played a four-month interstellar voyage based on the wagon train of 1843, which traveled from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon.”



As a part of their study, they constructed an almost full sized Conestoga wagon from recycled materials. They did an awesome job on this project and we were thrilled to be able to have it for the weekend.

More on our new Benches

Previous issues of our newsletter have mentioned the addition of benches to Luper Cemetery. A big part of this was due to Mother Nature in the form of the severe winter storm in February 2014. As a result of that storm, we now have 2 logs that we have turned in to our "Where-it-Fell" benches. Out of slabs of these logs that volunteers cut, Kyle Sorensen, of Boy Scout Troop #182, created 2 other benches. This was done as a part of his Eagle Scout certification.

We have spent time this summer sanding, staining, & sealing the seating portion of the logs. Kyle's benches will get the same treatment within the month. Be sure to try them out during your visit to the cemetery.

Fossils and Bases

As you walk through the cemetery you will notice that there are several sandstone bases that are just sitting there. During the restoration process we found that many of the original bases were broken or too fragile to be used to hold the headstones. They were replaced by new bases.

Some of the broken bases revealed another treasure.... fossils! Recently volunteer Meredith Prochot contacted University of Oregon Professor of Geology, Mark Reed, to identify several rock types in the

cemetery. He consulted with Paleontologist Greg Retallack, also with the U of O. We learned that the bases are Eugene Formation sandstone containing fine to medium particles of rock fragments, mafic minerals, and feldspars. The sandstone has molds of the large surf clam *Spisula eugenensis*. Take a close look while you are touring the cemetery.

Thanks to All Who Contribute to Luper

Luper Cemetery is a volunteer-run organization. Our board members are:

Peter Thurston, Kristin Meador, Merilee Boulton, Mark Brown, John Moore.

Current volunteers:

Meredith Prochot, Zane Medlen, Daniel & Donna Owen, Linda VanOrden, Sharon Olson.

Other volunteers: Louise Fortuna, Russell Carey, Ben Stinnett, Bob Biswell, Wells McCool, Molly Smith, Frank & Lisa Betz, Karen Olson, Scott & Kyle Sorenson, Kuri Gill.

Luper Cemetery, Inc. wants to acknowledge and thank the numerous organizations and individuals that have helped us preserve and maintain Luper Cemetery:

Oregon Country Fair -- grant for our Kiosk and native plants

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries – 2013 Historic

Cemetery Grant for Memorial Stone.

Lane County Historical Society – Mobile Museum and our 2015 Memorial Day visit by Abraham Lincoln (Stephen Holgate).

Donovan and Associates – Restoration work

Eugene Monument

Eugene Register Guard

KEZI Television

KVAL Television

Kay Holbo

Boy Scout Troop #182

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission

Oregon Memorials

Redwood Northwest

Ridgeline Montessori School

River Road Community Organization

Santa Clara Fire Department

Ted Baker

The Sign Shop

SOLVE

Sperry Tree Care

Several donations of maintenance equipment helps make the site a success. Everyone's help, whether noted here or not, has been a benefit to our mission!

Thank you to all our visitors and supporters!