

Fall/Winter 2008



# NEWSLETTER

RIVER VIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ~ NON-PROFIT SINCE 1882

## *President's Message—River View's Secrets Unveiled*

*By Thomas D. Woodworth, President—River View Cemetery Board of Trustees*

As President of the River View Cemetery Association Board of Trustees, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your allegiance to River View. As someone who professionally works with cemeteries all across the country, I can certainly attest to the fact that River View Cemetery is a beautiful and rare gem.

Just as it is with gems in nature, so it is with River View, in that each time you turn the gem, you see a new and different facet.

River View Cemetery Funeral Home is one such facet. In time of need, whether day or night, all you need to do is call (503)246-6488, and our experienced, licensed funeral directors will immediately respond to serve you. The convenience of an on-site, full service funeral home and crematorium is just one of the many facets that makes River View "shine". Another such facet is the availability of a whole team of Advance Planning Professionals who can assist you in making your funeral and cemetery arrangements in advance, without the high pressure sales tactics that exist at many of the for-profit cemeteries in our area. A free, pre-planning guide is available for your use. All you need to do is call and ask for one.

The beautiful grounds and facilities are another facet that makes River View shine. The Adams Chapel, located in the indoor mausoleum is available for funeral or memorial services; and the adjacent hospitality room allows you to greet family and friends following the service. River View Cemetery offers a wide variety of memorial property and mausoleum crypts. Columbarium niches are also available, both indoor and out, as well as a wide variety of other placement options for cremated remains. From the traditional to the non-traditional, we have whatever you need and can take care of all the details in advance.

River View is a private, not-for-profit cemetery. Unlike the national cemetery chains, all profits are retained for the future upkeep of the cemetery. We have an entirely volunteer Board of Trustees. Each Trustee is committed to the future preservation of the cemetery for generations to come and must either own or control cemetery property in order to serve on the Board. I personally consider it an honor to serve as your President.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Woodworth

## *Historical Figure—Abigail Scott Duniway*

Born in 1834, Abigail Scott Duniway was known as a writer, newspaper publisher, pioneer, teacher, and promoter for women's rights. Buried here at River View Cemetery in 1915, she made her mark in Oregon History as the first woman registered to vote in Multnomah County.

As an overland pioneer in 1852, she went into business where she flourished and started publishing *The New Northwest Newspaper*, which helped women's rights. Her brother, Harvey Scott, was also buried here at River View Cemetery in 1910. He also became well known as an editor and eventually became part Owner of *The Oregonian* newspaper.



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*If you would like to visit the Duniway-Scott graves, please feel free to stop by our office for a map and walking tour brochure. We also welcome organization tours!*

## *Who's That Cat at River View?*



As you visit the cemetery, you may encounter our friendly feline, "Harry". Found and adopted by Lee Rogers, River View's cemetery manager, in May, 2002, we believe he provides great comfort to families that are grieving. Lee is also the primary caretaker of Harry. Lee believes Harry is a great asset to our staff and to the families that we serve. So, don't be surprised if, while you're here visiting you may see an orange tabby cat on the grounds or jumping up on your lap in our offices begging for attention...he's just our beloved Harry!

## *Help with Grief through the Holidays*

*When a loved one dies, we grieve not just for that individual, but for the life we used to have with them. There are all the memories of traditions that you had, and loved, and now everything has changed. Getting through the Holidays is tough and can be isolating. Here are some tips that might be able to help:*

1. **SIMPLIFY!** Try to diminish the "have-to-do" list. You don't have to send cards out to everyone. Attend holiday gatherings that YOU feel are important.
2. Keep a journal of how you really feel. Or even start a letter to your loved one.
3. Do something differently this year; create a new tradition. You can also create a way to memorialize your loved one. For example, lighting a candle in remembrance of them.
4. Responding to happy greetings is difficult. To a "Happy Holidays" wish, you can just respond, "I'll try", or, "the same to you".
5. Give something of yourself to others—donate a toy to a children's charity or volunteer if you feel up to it. Visit someone who may not get any visitors this time of year.
6. Seek support from others—spend time with family and allow yourself to have a good time. Take the time to share stories about your loved one.
7. Allow yourself time to cry, both alone and with your loved ones.
8. Take good care of yourself—get enough rest, eat healthy meals and try to relax. Reading a good book can also help.



## *River View Cemetery's Upcoming Events*

*Our services are open to everyone...*

### Holiday Memorial Service

Saturday, December 13th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

River View Cemetery ~ Adams Chapel

*This Service is dedicated to the families who have lost a loved one. We invite all families to attend this special service to honor and cherish the ones they love.*

### National Children's Memorial Day

#### Candlelighting Service

Sunday, December 14th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

River View Cemetery ~ Adams Chapel

*This service is for anyone who has lost a child. It will be held indoors at the Adams Chapel followed by a procession to River View Cemetery's "Angel of Hope" statue for a brief candlelight vigil.*

### Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 12th, 2009 at 6:30 a.m.

River View Cemetery

*Please come join us for our Easter Service. We will have music, singing and refreshments. Please dress warmly as we will be outside during this event.*

## PROPOSED WEST-END INTERCHANGE FOR NEW SELLWOOD BRIDGE POSES THREAT TO RIVER VIEW CEMETERY'S HISTORIC LOWER ENTRANCE & FUNERAL HOME FACILITY

### “Friends of River View” Encouraged to Object to Bridge Officials

For the last several years, Multnomah County officials and a volunteer Community Task Force have been working to finalize plans for a replacement to the existing Sellwood Bridge. From the beginning, your Association's Board of Trustees along with River View Cemetery's Executive Director have been closely following this process, knowing that any changes to the intersection at the west end of the bridge could negatively affect the lower access to the cemetery. The loss of a lower entrance, or even of significant land along Hwy. 43, could jeopardize the future of River View Cemetery Funeral Home, which is housed in the historic building that was formerly the caretaker's residence.

Officials have considered numerous alternatives, based on a wide variety of bridge styles, widths and possible locations. Also under consideration were the type of interchanges to utilize on each end of the bridge, as well as the impact the various alternatives would have on nearby residences and businesses. Well over one-hundred (100) possible choices have been narrowed down to only five (5), and an Environmental Impact Study has been performed on those choices, the results of which can be found at the Sellwood Bridge website: [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org). As we feared, the proximity of our lower entrance to the west end of the bridge has put that entrance in very real jeopardy.

**We need your help!** Many Association members and other supporters of River View have already asked, “*What can we do to help?*” Following are some ways that you can help promote the official position of the Association's Board of Trustees:

1. Visit the website and compare the five (5) alternatives, referred to as “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, and “E”. (Note: Information about these alternatives is provided later in this article.)
2. Take the on-line “Survey” and provide bridge officials with your opinion about the proposal.
3. **Submit a formal comment.** This is probably the most important thing you can do to help. You can submit a formal comment by either going on-line at the website, or by mailing your written comments to: Sellwood Bridge Project, Attn: Mike Pullen, 2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97201. **Please note:** Comments must be received by **December 22, 2008!**
4. If you receive this newsletter in time, attend the public hearing on December 10 at OMSI (The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) from 6:00 to 8:30 PM to show your support. The address is 1945 S.E. Water Avenue in Portland. You can sign up to give a public comment at the public hearing, or if you do not wish to speak in a public forum, a court reporter will be available in an adjacent room to record oral comments. You should bring a written or typed copy of your testimony if you choose either of these avenues to present your comments.

**What IS the Association's Position About the Bridge?** Our primary concern is to insist upon a plan that maintains the historic lower entrance for River View Cemetery and access to our funeral home. This entryway to the cemetery existed long before the current Sellwood Bridge was built, so a replacement bridge should not be allowed to take it away. It could be argued that we do have other entrances; however, this is still the primary entrance for cemetery clients coming from southeast Portland or Lake Oswego. And it is the only entrance for River View Cemetery Funeral Home, which is housed in the historic brick building near the lower entrance. The Environmental Impact Statement and the position of county officials is that the funeral home can still be accessed through other cemetery entrances, but anyone who is familiar with the terrain knows that it is not reasonable to expect funeral home clients, many of whom are elderly, recently bereaved individuals, to wind their way through several miles of curvy cemetery roads to try and find the funeral home. Without its own entrance, the funeral home's future is in serious jeopardy since there is no suitable other location on the grounds to relocate the business.

**Which Alternative is Supported by The Board of Trustees?** Alternative “C” is our least favorite choice because it completely eliminates our lower access to the cemetery and funeral home. Additionally, it calls for a closure of the bridge for longer than any other alternative: three and a half years! This would be a major inconvenience to our eastside members and their families. Alternatives “D” and “E” are preferred over “A” and “B”, because staged construction would allow for traffic flow to be maintained on the bridge during construction and because “D” and “E” include a traffic signal, which in our opinion will provide better traffic flow than the roundabout interchange proposed in “A” and “B”. Of the preferred alternatives (“D” and “E”), the better of those for our interests would be “E”, since it places the bridge and west end intersection slightly further north, therefore causing less impact to our funeral home property. So, in summary, the Board's preference is “E”, but the bottom line is **“Anything but C”!**

**Ongoing Information.** The best source for current information about the status of the Sellwood Bridge project is to visit the website [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org). Sometime in early January, we hope to open a link on River View's website that provides current information on the project from our perspective. Watch for that feature soon at [www.riverviewcemetery.org](http://www.riverviewcemetery.org). Until then, if you cannot get your questions answered any other way, you may call River View Cemetery at (503) 246-4251 and ask for David Noble, the Executive Director.



8421 SW Macadam Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97219

**IMPORTANT!! Please read page three to learn about a potential threat to River View's historic lower entrance and Funeral Home facility**

River View Cemetery—Phone (503)246-4251 Fax (503)246-9653  
[www.riverviewcemetery.org](http://www.riverviewcemetery.org)  
River View Cemetery Funeral Home—Phone (503)246-6488 Fax (503)246-1943  
[www.riverviewcemeteryfuneralhome.com](http://www.riverviewcemeteryfuneralhome.com)

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**Group Presentations**

*River View personnel are available to give group presentations to your civic, service, religious or social groups—FREE!*

*Over the past year, we've given historical and informational tours to grade schools, colleges, boy scout and girl scout organizations. Topics on tours can vary from the history of River View, to pre-planning your funeral and cemetery arrangements or learning about the funeral or cemetery professions.*

*For more information, please call our cemetery office at (503)246-4251.*

**River View Cemetery's Family Service Team**



Jocelyn Bagley



Susan O'Brien



Kathy Samuelson



Gail Schmale Widmer

Although assisting families at the time of a death is a very important service, an even more important service we offer is advance planning. Planning ahead before death occurs can be one of the most responsible and caring things you can do to prevent emotional and financial stress on your family.

If decisions are made ahead of time, you can prevent your family the very difficult and expensive decisions that need to be made on possibly the worst day of their life. The family service team here at River View is here to assist you with your cemetery and funeral pre-arrangements. If you would like a complimentary Pre-Planning Records Guide Book to assist you with compiling the information needed at the time of death, please give us a call at our office to receive your complimentary copy.

