President’s Message ~ Support the River View Cemetery Foundation Fund

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

Not long ago, I was visiting our beautiful cemetery - just looking at the names on the gravesites. While I did not recognize a great many of the names, as there are more than 69,000 interments, there were some names that we see every day – on our streets, buildings and schools. Whether well known or not, they share one thing in common: they all chose their final resting place at perhaps the most magnificent cemetery in the country - River View Cemetery. Where else are there hundreds of acres overlooking the Willamette River with beautiful views of Portland, Mt. Hood and the Cascade mountain range?

The care of this beautiful cemetery is entrusted to a dedicated volunteer Board of Trustees, who work to ensure that River View’s high standards of maintenance and service are maintained in perpetuity. To accomplish this, we rely on current service fees as well as income from our Endowment Care Fund. Unfortunately, the current state of the economy has reduced our income from the Endowment Care Fund; making it necessary for the cemetery to reduce some of the usual expenditures that enhance the overall beauty of the cemetery, such as fertilizing the grounds, the yearly repaving of portions of the cemetery roads and maintenance equipment upgrades. Also sidelined have been several much-needed improvements, such as replacing the carpeting and pews in the Adams Chapel, new lighting and carpet in the indoor mausoleum, and a new roof for the funeral home.

Recognizing that the available funds can’t come close to doing everything, the Board of Trustees established the Foundation Fund, with the hope that charitable contributions from Friends of River View will help fund these shortfalls and improvements. One way that all of us can help is to make a donation to the River View Cemetery Foundation Fund. Your tax-deductible donation would go a long way to help ensure that the beauty of the cemetery is maintained in perpetuity. A donation may take many forms, from a cash donation to Wills and Living Trusts. For more information please contact the Executive Director, David Noble.

Sincerely Yours,
Thomas Woodworth

“Founder’s Park” Honors Three Portland Pioneers Who Helped Establish River View

Pathway and Benches Honor Founders Corbett, Ladd & Failing

Have you had a chance to visit “Founder’s Park”? If not, take a few extra minutes the next time you come to River View Cemetery and check it out. For a long time it had been River View’s goal to somehow honor those pioneers most instrumental in founding this beautiful cemetery. In the summer and fall of 2007 it became a reality, when the idea was adopted as an Eagle Scout project by Charlie McCaslin, son of Association Trustee, Michael McCaslin. With Charlie’s leadership, the help of his Boy Scout Troop, and assistance by River View Cemetery personnel, funds were raised; pathways were excavated; gravel walkways laid; soil and bark dust were spread; and a variety of azalea and rhododendron plants were put in place.

Three granite benches were engraved and installed: one each for Henry W. Corbett, William S. Ladd and Henry Failing. Each bench is engraved with information about one of the founders; tracing their journey to Portland, their historical prominence as early Portland pioneers, and the part they played in helping to establish the River View Cemetery Association.
News Letter

New Products and Services Will Soon Be Available for Clients of River View Cemetery

New Memorial Markers Now Available with “Natural” Burial Coming Soon

Memorial Marker Choices Enhanced River View Cemetery is introducing two new product lines: cored granite markers and bronze memorials. Both of these options are designed to be able to accommodate a bronze floral vase as an integral part of the memorial itself. In the past, clients wanting a floral vase were only offered the option of a separate vase, installed below the marker in its own concrete or granite foundation. Now, they may choose either an oversize, granite marker, cored to accommodate a bronze vase; or, a bronze marker/vase assembly that would be attached to a granite base. Both choices eliminate the need for pouring a concrete foundation, and the need to have two separate items at the gravesite. Examples and pricing for cored granite markers are available now, by contacting a Family Service Representative. Bronze markers and pricing will be available very soon.

Natural, or “Green” Burial Options Coming Soon By Spring of 2010, River View Cemetery plans to have rules and protocol in place to allow Association members the option of having “Natural” burial. Often referred to as “Green” burial, a natural burial is for clients seeking simple, environmentally friendly burial without the use of formaldehyde-based embalming; without a concrete burial vault or grave liner; and which utilize fully biodegradable caskets or alternative containers for transporting the deceased to the gravesite. Our on-site funeral home already offers funeral arrangements utilizing biodegradable containers and without embalming; however, our cemetery plans to enhance these options early next year by offering areas within the cemetery where burial vaults or grave liners would not be required. Visit our website at www.riverviewcemetery.org and watch for future updates on this coming new burial option.

Historical Figure—Albertina Kerr

Albertina, known by her family as Tina, was born on July 13, 1890. Her parents were Louis and Christina Sechtem. Her father was from Germany and her mother from Sweden. Louis and his brother Fred owned the Quelle Restaurant which was quite famous for crawfish at the time.

Albertina attended Couch Elementary School. According to her sister, Hilda, she could sing, dance and “be kind of funny.” While quite young she played Little Eva as a substitute in a traveling company’s performance of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

Her father died in 1894. Consequently Albertina and her brother and sisters went to work before or right after graduating from Lincoln High School to help support the family. Albertina went to work at the Kerr Glass Company where she met Alexander Kerr. They married on September 29, 1910 and moved into the house at 129 14th Street. Albertina and Alexander’s son, John, was born in June of 1911. Shortly after John’s birth they traveled to Camp Rilea and Long Beach, Washington. It is thought that she contracted Typhoid while in one of those beach areas. She died on October 17, 1911 at home after a short illness and is buried at River View Cemetery in Portland.

To honor her and her charitable works, Alexander donated their home to the Pacific Coast Rescue Society to be the Albertina Kerr Nursery for all the city’s homeless children. It opened in 1913. The home quickly became too small, and Alexander, along with his new wife Ruth Kerr, fundraised to open the Albertina Kerr Nursery, which was built on NE 22nd and Sandy Avenue in 1921. The Albertina Kerr Nursery operated until 1967 when the organization moved to a foster care model of care for children. Today the entire organization is known as Albertina Kerr Centers, and the mission is to help children, adults and families in Oregon who face mental health challenges and developmental disabilities, empowering them to lead fuller, more self-determined lives. The original nursery reopened in 1981 as Albertina’s Restaurant and Shops, completely volunteer-run businesses with proceeds going to the organization.

For a self-guided walking tour to locate Albertina Kerr’s grave, please stop by our office during regular business hours.
In Loving Memory of Our Dear Friend and Co-Worker...Kimberly “Kim” Ann VanDeWalker

We are sad to report that our funeral home administrator, Kim VanDeWalker, died unexpectedly in her sleep September 28, 2009.

Kim was born February 28, 1961 in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Vincent and Shirley Messineo. At the age of two, her family moved to the Portland area where she attended several elementary schools; graduated from Reynolds High School and also took classes at Clackamas Community College.

She held several positions during her adult life working as an Accounts Payable Supervisor for Princeton Property Management, All Source Packaging, Inc. and Oregon Trail Lumber, Inc. before taking time to be a stay-at-home Mom. She was particularly proud of the time she spent helping get her boys on their paths.

When she returned to the workforce in 2007, she became the administrator at River View Cemetery Funeral Home where she worked up until the time of her death.

Survivors include her two sons: Chad, who is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps in Japan and Dale, who is a high school student in Oregon City. She was very proud of her sons and loved them very much.

Also surviving are her father, Vincent Messineo; her sister, Kathy Jones; a brother, Phil Messineo; and her maternal grandmother, Virginia Booth.

Kim had a friendly, supportive manner and endeared herself to the families being served by our funeral home as well as her co-workers. She had a warm smile for everyone and will be greatly missed.

New Cemetery Hours of Operation

**Visitation Hours:**
- Cemetery Grounds: 8:00 AM to Dusk
- Indoor Mausoleum: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Weekdays
- 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturdays
- 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Sundays & Holidays

**Office Hours:**
- 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Weekdays
- 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturdays
- Closed Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, & New Years Day

River View Cemetery’s Upcoming Events

**Holiday Memorial Service**

Saturday, December 12th, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
River View Cemetery ~ Adams Chapel

*This ceremony 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 and remember.*

**National Children’s Memorial Day Candlelighting Service**

Sunday, December 13th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
River View Cemetery ~ Adams Chapel

*This observance 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, 2010 at 6:30 a.m.
River View Cemetery ~ Outdoor Mausoleum

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

…that River View Cemetery Association owns and operates a full-service funeral home right here on the cemetery grounds, as well as an on-site crematory?

…that after less than six years of existence, nearly half of our members now use River View Cemetery Funeral Home for their burial or cremation arrangements?

…that any profits from the funeral home go toward cemetery improvements?

…that you can make funeral arrangements in advance with the same advance planning representatives that assisted you with your cemetery pre-planning?

Well….now you know and you are encouraged to support River View Cemetery by choosing our funeral home for your arrangements. You will be served by caring and experienced funeral directors, and will appreciate the convenience of making all your arrangements in one location. Call 503.246.6488 today for an appointment to receive no obligation information about funeral advance planning.

NEW TRUSTEE JOINS BOARD

Harris S. Matarazzo Replaces Long-time Trustee, Peter Adams

On November 10, 2009, Harris S. Matarazzo became the newest member of the River View Cemetery Association Board of Trustees. Harris is a native of Portland; is a successful attorney; and will be a positive addition to the Board. He replaces Peter Adams, who recently left the cemetery board, after over 25 years of service, to take up new duties as an officer on the River View Cemetery Funeral Home Board of Directors.

Our sincere thanks go out to Peter Adams for his many years of commitment and service to River View Cemetery and we welcome Mr. Matarazzo to the Board.