



The R.I.P. Report

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“Unknown” But Not Forgotten

When the small town of Phoenix was incorporated back on February 25, 1881, the newly appointed leaders were already dealing with a cemetery that needed to be moved. The citizens wanted the cemetery moved from the area of Jackson and Madison Streets, 5th Avenue to 7th Avenue. As with most political issues, the reburials finally began in 1884 to the new site located presently between 13th and 15th Avenue on Madison.

So began a process that most hoped would be over and done with in a short amount of time and the City moved on. Over time as the City grew and buildings were replaced on the old cemetery site, remains were discovered again, specifically in 1935. The partial remains were left at the site and again the City moved on.

Moved on until May 14, 2012 when construction began for a new County building at the site which included a basement. Caskets and remains were again discovered. Archaeologists moved in under the direction of Dr. Todd Pitezel from the Arizona State Museum and Mark Hackbarth of Logan Simpson Design. Investigation revealed partial remains to 14 separate indi-

viduals, but no full skeletal remains. The identities of the individuals will forever remain unknown.

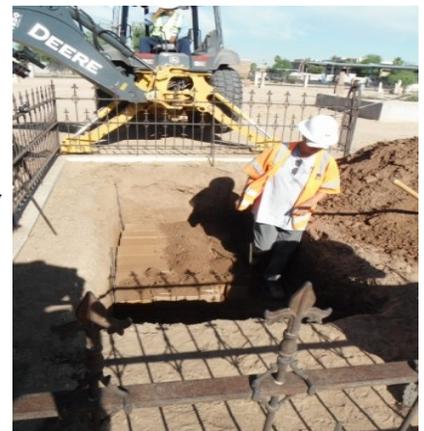
They may be unknown, but the Pioneers' Cemetery Association requested the remains be reinterred at PMMP. We knew they belonged with us and after all Marge West had the perfect plot picked out. After some waiting and worrying, we received word that the remains would be coming to PMMP.

Without much fanfare in the very early morning on June 11, 2013, the 14 individuals were reburied in the Looseley Cemetery in Block 8, Lot 8. Because of a request by those agencies doing the reburial, the PCA did not send out information on the reburial at that time.

We are in the process of developing ideas for a memorial service sometime in the fall and will have photos and hopefully a video of the reburial at that time.

Story by Patty Gault

Photos by Bob Cox: (top) data for each interred “guest” (middle) pioneers being laid to rest (bottom) ceramic plaques on boxes have archaeological data referencing project



Brad Hall

Smurthwaite House
1317 W Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

PCA Mailing Address:
PO Box 63342
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Dining Among the Dead - Don't Miss It!



Come Meet and Eat with the Dearly Departed!

The Pioneers' Cemetery Association is excited to welcome you to the 2nd annual "Dining Among the Dead"-- a Victorian dinner party on the Gazebo Patio in the midst of the early Phoenix pioneers who grace the old Pioneer cemetery. The event will be held at the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park at 14th Avenue and Jefferson Streets in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday evening, October 12, 2013. The cemetery gates will open 5:00PM. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:30PM.

Package includes: Salad, Dinner (Choice of a Meat or Vegetarian Dish) & Dessert, Iced tea or Lemonade, and entertainment. Meet the legendary Wyatt Earp as he regales you with stories of his historic life. Ticket also

includes one raffle ticket, and a luminary historic tour of the old cemetery featuring live re-enactment players.

Cost is only \$45 per person.....no refunds

Raffles! Raffles! Raffles! Additional raffle tickets will be available for \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.

Donations are always welcomed! Proceeds to benefit the Pioneers' Cemetery Association for the tombstone restoration project.

This event is by reservation only. There will be NO tickets sold at the gate. To order your tickets and reserve a space at the dining tables, please contact Debe Branning--a member of the PCA Board of Directors ASAP. She

will place your name on the reservation list and will send out your tickets after you have paid. Invite all of your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or other organizations.

Make checks/money orders payable to: PCA (Pioneers' Cemetery Association)

Mail to:
Debe Branning
1263 N Gaylord Circle
Mesa, AZ 85213
For more information, email Debe Branning at: nazanaza@aol.com

- story by Debe Branning and Cindy Lee, co-chairs of event

"Here lies a man named Zeke.

Second fastest draw in Cripple Creek."

(epitaph in Colorado)



Our Dear Marge

Marjory Helen West, 87, passed away August 24, 2013 from complications related to West Nile Virus. She was born August 14, 1926 in Battle Creek, Michigan to William Leland and Helen (Born) Royer. Marjory was raised in Battle Creek and graduated from Albion College in 1948. She earned a Master in Library Science from Case Western Reserve. While raising her daughters in the mid-west, Marjory pursued her love of history by researching the family genealogy.

She moved to Phoenix in 1977 and worked for the Phoenix Public Library, Cholla Branch and running the bookmobile services. In retirement she pursued a number of volunteer activities including serving as treasurer for Friends of the Library, Cholla Branch, and cataloger for the Phoenix Art Museum. For the past 30 years she volunteered her time to restoring Phoenix's Pioneer & Military Memorial Park located at 15th Avenue and West Jefferson near the Arizona State Capitol complex. Marjory was a member of the First Families

of Arizona, Pioneers' Cemetery Association, and Family History Society of Arizona. Marjory is survived by her three daughters, Eleanor (Loren) Scheman of Mesa, AZ, Loraine West of Alexandria, VA and Janet West of Altadena, CA. She is also survived by three grandchildren, James (Martha) Scheman, and Margaret and Emma West and by her brother, Charles (Nancy) Royer of Wickenburg, AZ and sister, Barbara Rostand of Sunland, CA and 6 nieces and 1 nephew. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pioneers' Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 63342, Phoenix, AZ 85082. Private burial in Mountain View Cemetery, Prescott, AZ. A memorial service will be planned at a later date at the Smurthwaite House.

Marge may have passed from our physical world, but her spirit lives on in the memories of the people who knew her. She was a pioneer in cemetery restoration and record keeping. To the Pioneers' Cemetery Association, she was its backbone. Although not a



charter member, Marge attended its first Memorial Day Observance ceremony in 1984 and became a dedicated, working member. When a book of burial records was donated to the Phoenix Museum of History, Marge was one of a small group who abstracted all the information by longhand. When death records became public at the AZ State Archives on rolls of microfilm, she did the same.

Marge spent untold hours scrolling through microfilmed newspapers transcribing obituaries and notices of citizens' comings and goings. Before PCA had a computer, Marge copied all this information to index cards and to her personal computer, a primitive Apple II.

With Algona Winslow, another long time member, she affectionately became known as part of the "Snoop Sisters" because of all their endless research. She taught the love of and importance of cemetery history and the need for preserving that for all time.

Marge was also a wonderful orator. Marge, with Algona, had come to participate in an exhibit about mourning customs. The museum had a mourning exhibit inside the Victorian Sears House, and Marge and Algona talked with visitors about early Phoenix cemeteries, research, cemetery history preservation, headstone rubbings and the PCA as part of the exhibit. Marge had an undeniable passion for history and cemeteries that was fantastic, engaging, unflagging, sharing, and contagious! Her stories and knowledge have inspired many people to enjoy and help in the restoration of historic cemeteries. Some members of the PCA even attribute her as the sole reason they are part of the organization.

Marge was a historian, teacher, researcher, mentor, friend, and beloved family member. She will be missed.

- story by the West Family, Diane Sumrall, and Tammy Parker



JOIN THE PCA!



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Membership Categories:

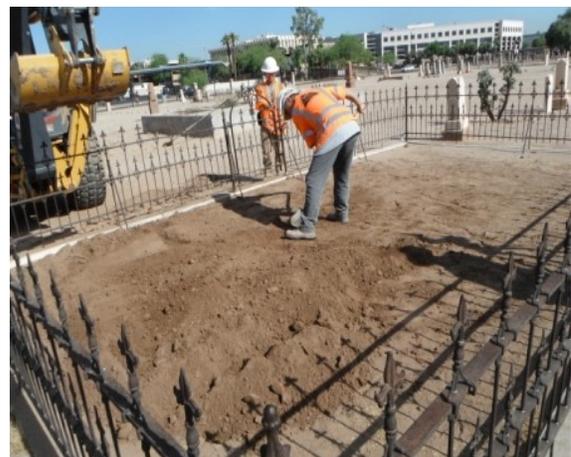
Individual \$20____, Family \$25____

Organization or Sustaining \$50____

Sponsoring \$100-\$199____

Monument Level \$200-\$499____

Mausoleum Level \$500-\$1000____



Pioneers' Cemetery Association

2013 PCA Officers

First Vice President

Sterling Foster

Second Vice

President:

Frank Barrios

Treasurer:

Diane Sumrall

Secretary:

Bob Cox

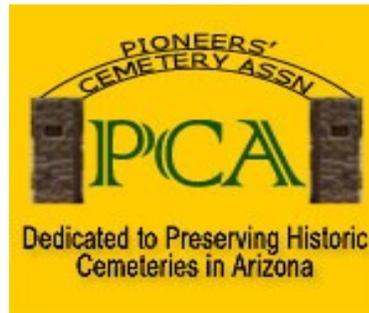
Historian:

Denise Foster

Phone: 602-534-1262

Email:

pioneercem@yahoo.com



Upcoming Events

September 5th, Thursday	Board Meeting (all members welcome), 1st Board and member's meeting of 2013-2014 year. Board meeting at 9:30 a.m.. Members at 11:00 a.m. Agenda coming soon. When: 9:30 a.m. Where: 1317 W. Jefferson, Smurthwaite House
September 12th, Thursday	Monthly meeting with Parks and Recreation Staff. Open tours of the historic cemeteries and Smurthwaite House. When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Where: 1317 W. Jefferson, Smurthwaite House
October 12th, Saturday	<i>Dining Among the Dead</i> — Fundraising Event When: gates open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. Where: 1317 W. Jefferson, PMMP (see page 2 for details)
December 5th, Thursday	Annual election of Board officers. When: 9:30 a.m. Where: 1317 W. Jefferson, Smurthwaite House

www.azHistCemeteries.org

Table information by Donna Carr

Illustrations by Brad Hall

Photos that are not credited are from members of the PCA