

CALENDAR



Dear Cypress Lawn Heritage
Foundation Followers:

It is with great regret that we have decided to suspend all Heritage Foundation events until further notice. Our hope is to begin the trolley tours and lectures late in the year, but they may have to be postponed until 2021. This health crisis has demonstrated how much the Heritage Foundation really means to the Bay Area. Many Cypress Lawn fans have reached out to tell me that our programs are greatly missed. Thank you for your encouragement and support! We miss you, too! We will be back — as safely and as soon as possible.

Please find updates on our Facebook page and the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation website.

Sincerely,

Terry Hamburg
Director of the Cypress Lawn
Heritage Foundation



EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Cypress Lawn Reception Room, 2nd floor,
1370 El Camino Real

**1370 El Camino Real, Colma, meet at Main Lobby
All Events Are Free • Light Refreshments

THE 1918 PANDEMIC IN SAN FRANCISCO: TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK, THAT IS THE QUESTION



San Francisco citizens face the long arm of the law for mask violations

of a torturous month” despite urgings from the Health Department to keep their face coverings for possible future use. As celebrations continue and residents flock to theaters, restaurants and other public spaces, city officials will soon learn their problems are far from over.

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From the President's Desk

Cypress Lawn Matters

Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association and its affiliates have been the cornerstone of the Bay Area community for well over a century. During this most challenging and defining moment of our generation, the management team and all the 200+ Cypress Lawn Associates have carefully and calmly listened, learned and adjusted to ensure our promise to the community continued throughout this daunting adversity. Our teams pivoted quickly in order to bolster safety and sanitization protocols, procure personal protective equipment and convert staffing, service delivery and arrangements to allow for social distancing guidelines. Surveys, letters, emails and interviews all report our client families appreciate the actions we have taken to provide safe ways for them to celebrate life, heal from loss and remember those they love.

Here are some of the actions we have taken during this time:

Live Streaming: Given the restrictions on funeral attendance, live streaming is in high demand. We are sharing this important technology with families and the public so that family and friends can watch a service live or later through the recording.

Facebook Communication: We changed all our regular social media programming as soon as COVID-19 began, including linking to our website resources and explaining how we can help during this difficult time. We have featured news stories on Cypress Lawn's response,

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notices on changes in procedures or regulations, live streaming, self-care resources, and ways to express condolences while funeral attendance is limited.

Safety First: Cypress Lawn will continue to keep the public secure through clear guidelines during arrangements, services, and within the Memorial Park. We have created a Video Resource Guide to make all staff members aware of how they can utilize outreach to the community within their roles.

We hear it every day, these are challenging times. It is in these times when our resolve is truly tested. Our associates continue to rise to the occasions and serve. At Cypress Lawn we remain careful, calm, positive and grateful. On behalf of our management team and all our amazing staff members, thank you for the opportunity to carry forward the vision of our founder Hamden Noble.

~ Bob Gordon, CEO

Words of Inspiration During the COVID crisis

"Worry is like a rocking chair:
It gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere."
~*Humorist Erma Bombeck.*

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."
~*Marie Madam Curie, scientist*

"Often when you think you're at the end of something,
you're at the beginning of something else."
~ *Fred Rogers aka Mr. Rogers*

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.
It's about learning how to dance in the rain."
~ *Vivian Greene, British writer
and widow of novelist Graham Greene*

"You can't always get what you want.
But if you try sometime, you just might find,
you get what you need."
~ *Rolling Stones*

"That which does not kill us, makes us stronger."
~ *Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche*

"If you're going through hell, keep going."
~ *Winston Churchill*

"Tough times don't last; tough people do."
~ *Robert Schuller, minister*

Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association

Cypress Lawn is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit corporation established in 1892 by a group of prominent and responsible citizens, headed by Hamden Noble, determined to provide a decent cemetery for all creeds and races as well as "an attractive and pleasing place for meditation of the living." Today, over a hundred years later, Cypress Lawn stands as a testament to the vision of these men when they proclaimed, "... in the fullness of time, the cemetery... will form an extensive park, rich in foliage, flowers, mausoleums, statuary and other works of art ... a handsome gift to posterity."



Cypress Lawn Habitat

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www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/

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TREE OF THE MONTH AT CYPRESS LAWN: MONTEREY CYPRESS

By Josh Gevertz, Arboretum Director at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park



Monterey cypress is a unique species that we treasure as our namesake tree at the Cypress Lawn Arboretum, the distinguished feature throughout our growing collection. With nearly 200 specimens living in our Memorial Park, some as old as Cypress Lawn itself and others just planted on our grounds this year, this venerable California native tree is foundational to who we are and intrinsic to the landscape itself.

Truly, *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* is a species that is significant not only to us at the Arboretum but all across the planet. The distinguished botanist and UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Willis Jepson, once described this cypress as a tree of “singular beauty ... no other tree on earth has so narrow a natural range, though ... it has today a wider horticultural distribution than any other California tree species ... interesting and pregnant questions multiply constantly about it. All thought, all contemplation, all study are here in a sufficient way eminently worth the mind’s attention. It is one tree whose full history will be highly fruitful, and it will in time easily take its place by the side of those trees most well-known of the earth’s silva.” It is in this spirit of wonder and botanical awe that we at Cypress Lawn honor *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* as our inaugural Tree of the Month.

The Monterey cypress is a remarkable relic of California’s geologic past. Though its native range is theorized to once have stretched across the majority of the state’s Pacific coastline, it is now reduced to just a couple of ancient groves spanning 2 square miles on the Monterey Peninsula at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Pebble Beach. In 1846, the German botanist Karl

Theodor Hartweg first described the species, which he discovered near Point Lobos while collecting potential nursery specimens on behalf of London’s Royal Horticultural Society. From the botanical testing grounds of London’s Kew Gardens where Hartweg’s cypress seeds first germinated, the Monterey cypress quickly established itself as a signature species in the botanical vocabulary of the English estate garden.

Through the global nursery trade of the British empire, *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* then spread to other far-flung territories of the Commonwealth of Nations. Notably, in the Southern Hemisphere, this cypress has become an indelible presence in the rugged coastal landscapes of New Zealand, where the tree is commonly planted as a windbreak on rural farmsteads. The climate conditions of New Zealand, with rich soils and greater rainfall than in

California, has allowed the cypresses there to grow incredibly fast, and as such, the largest specimens on earth of “macrocarpa” (as it is commonly known in New Zealand) are found in the land of the Kiwis.

In Australia, too, the venerable cypress has come to occupy a significant place in the cultural gestalt. Through the memorial tree program known as Avenues of Honour, Australia pays living tribute to fallen soldiers from World Wars I and II with long allées of trees, one life planted for each life lost. Many Avenues of Honour in the state of Victoria are planted exclusively with our friend the Monterey cypress, and as these memorial trees reach the centurial milestone, their grandeur is an awe-inspiring and fitting tribute to the sacrifice of Australia’s youth.

In Commonwealth nations and beyond to the farthest corners of the globe, from Greece to Kenya, from Spain to British Columbia, this tree with once the smallest of homes has come to be planted on every continent around the world short of polar Antarctica. Its story still needs to be told, and this tribute vignette is really just the beginning.

When you have the chance, take a day to go visit the ancient stands of the Monterey Peninsula, and see for yourself, in the words of poet Clinton Scollard, “The face of Wonder intimately shown.” And, while you are at it, please stop by and see our many specimens of “Old Hespero” – as I fondly call my friend – here at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park and Arboretum.



"Please, take one. They're free." San Francisco Red Cross volunteers doing their civic duty on the streets of San Francisco.

It is an "only in San Francisco" story. In no other city is the face mask more embraced by government officials during the Pandemic. Nowhere is the compliance more accepted. And nowhere is the compliance more conspicuously flaunted.



Two months earlier, *The San Francisco Chronicle* reports that the disease is carried to San Francisco by a man returning from Chicago on September 23, 1918. The Spanish flu is already national news, and local authorities are quick to hospitalize him and quarantine his house. But a little more than two weeks later, there are 169 cases; then a jump to 2000 the following week. The pandemic is here. Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph huddles with business leaders and the Board of Health headed by Dr. William C. Hassler, the local Dr. Fauci of his day. After heated debate, which include behind-closed-door airing of fears that a general closure will precipitate widespread panic, the group issues a directive on October 18.

- All public and private school classes are suspended.
- Places of "public amusement" are closed. The main intent is movie theatres and dance venues. There is already a voluntary sharp decline in attendance, and proprietors support the official action to stem the epidemic and get back to normal. Public dancing at clubs and halls is very popular at the time. Authorities are more worried about the spread of the disease while spooning cheek to cheek than sitting next to a stranger at a theater.
- A ban on lodge meetings. This is age of private social/fraternal clubs. Probably half the population of the city are active members of one more or organizations based on religion, ethnicity, or shared ideas. A get-together may well include a dance band. The ordinance also covers union meetings. San Francisco is a "union town."



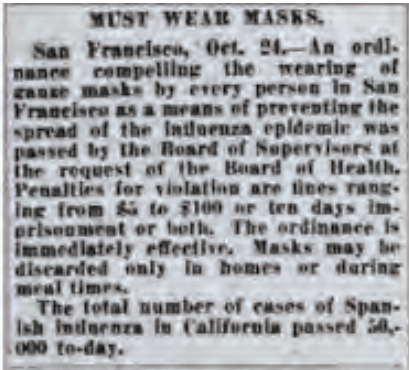
San Francisco Examiner, 1918

There is no effort to close churches, offices, and places of business. But a mask becomes mandatory for most enterprises serving the public, such as barbers, hotel and rooming house employees, bank tellers, druggists, and store clerks. Street cars must keep all windows open except during rain. Liberty Loan fund drives to raise money for the war effort and official public meetings are allowed to continue with safeguards and extra sanitation. The public is strongly urged to wear masks in public.



Top: Prominent San Franciscans, mainly judges, show off mask attire. Dr. William Hassler is on the top row, second from right.
Bottom: Open-air police court being held in Portsmouth Square, 1918. To prevent crowding indoors, San Francisco judges often hold sessions outdoors.

A week later, when mask compliance appears to be less than expected, face coverings became mandatory “in public or when in a group of two or more, except at mealtime.”



With the nation engaged in World War I at the time, donning a mask is quickly equated with an act of patriotism, and any refusal can evoke accusations of being a “slacker” – meaning a failure to do one’s part in the Great War. City officials estimate that four out of five are complying with the law. But some

are opposed, and some of those adamantly.

October 27: Police arrest 110 people for failure either to wear or to comply with an order to keep their masks properly adjusted. Each is charged with “disturbing the peace” and given a \$5 (\$80) fine, with the money donated to the Red Cross. 9 troublesome scofflaws are sentenced to short terms in the county jail.

October 28: another 50 violators arrested and 7 of those are assessed fines of \$10 apiece; 5 go to jail.

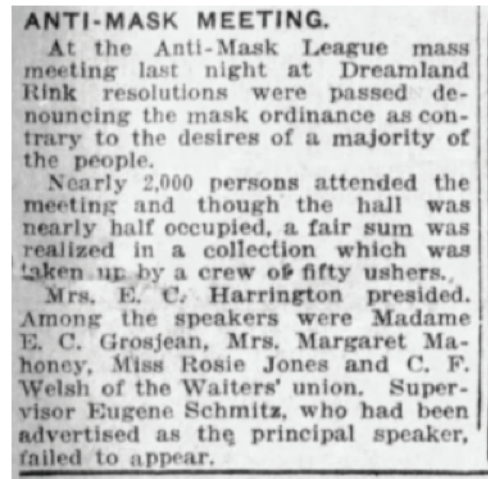
Arrests continue in the following days, with the majority receiving small fines but a few sentenced to short stints in jail. The Chief of Police openly complains that he might quickly run out available cell space. As the days roll on and more arrests are made, the city holding pen becomes increasingly crowded, and courts frantically try to clear cases.



Overall, the public does comply, including at the huge Armistice Parade on November 11 where newsreel films of celebrations ending the War show virtually everyone with facial covering. At that point, flu cases in San Francisco are down. Public health officials recommend reopening the city on November 21. That was the day of the Grand Unmasking.

But cases surge again, and Dr. Hassler tries to re-institute the masking ordinance. City officials vote down his proposal on December 19. Flu cases and deaths continued to increase. On January 10, 1919, with 600 new cases reported in the city, the Board of Supervisors decide to return to mandatory masking.

This time, there is more resistance to the order. Enter the Anti-Mask League, which holds a mid-January rally at the Dreamland Rink attended by 2,000 protesters where speakers question if the pandemic is really as bad as officials say. Isn’t this more like a normal cold and flu season? We’ve had years of wartime restriction, people complain, and we’ve had enough. The uprising leads to Dr. Hassler being harassed — in one case someone sends him an explosive package, which does not detonate.



Even the leadership that mandates the law are growing weary. Both Dr. Hassler and Mayor Rolph are photographed maskless in public. The San Francisco Chronicle, a mask champion, comes out against the ordinance. On February 1, the order is again rescinded. By that time, the city case load is receding. Masks will not appear again in San Francisco en masse for almost a century.

The epidemic brings some 45,000 cases of influenza to San Francisco and kills over 3,000 residents in the fall of 1918 and the winter of 1919. At the time, the city is reported as suffering the most of all major American urban centers. With more complete and accurate data today, we now know that San Francisco fared slightly better. Still, the city’s total death toll due to influenza and pneumonia during the epidemic was a near per capita national high.



Early in the pandemic, San Francisco mobilizes for action in front of City Hall



plot since. It bears the legend: "And the sea shall give up its dead - from every latitude here rest our brothers of the Sailors Union of the Pacific."

Tours will begin at the Olivet campus of Cypress Lawn as soon as our Heritage Foundation schedule resumes.

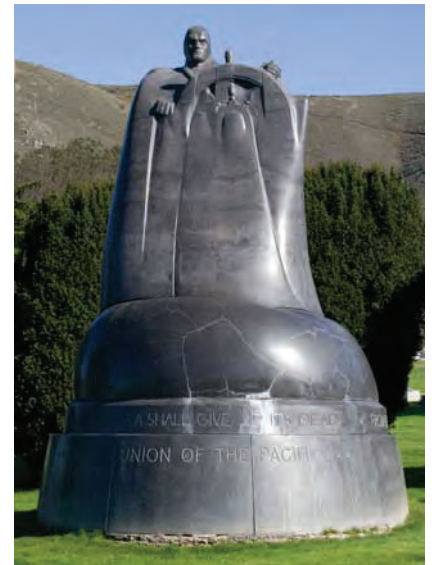
Cypress Lawn has purchased Olivet Memorial Park, which includes a crematory and funeral home. It opens access to eight additional acres of land for cemetery sales.

Situated as the base of the San Bruno Mountains, with huge cypress and palm trees throughout, Mount Olivet, as it was originally named, opened in 1896, four years after Cypress Lawn. Known as the "Cemetery of All Faiths" located at 1601 Hillside Boulevard, it sits adjacent to our Hillside campus. At present, the site occupies 65 acres and more than 100,000 remains. It features a columbarium with stained glass skylights and a new 300-seat funeral chapel for services.

One of the most notable monuments was erected in memory of the Show Folks of America, known as "Showman's Rest." The organization began holding annual conventions in

San Francisco in 1945 and at that time commissioned the burial tribute to circus and carnival people. The area was filled up with clowns and other performers by the mid-1990s.

A striking 18-foot-tall black granite monument to the Sailors Union of the Pacific done by prominent sculptor John Stoll was dedicated in 1946 by California Governor Earl Warren to remember the 6,000 merchant marines who died over the course of World War II. Many others have been buried in the



LIKE ALL THE CYPRESS LAWN CAMPUSES, OLIVET HAS FASCINATING STORIES. HERE IS ONE OF THEM.



Danneibell Hall
(1938 – 2000)

An American and international gospel star for almost half a century, Danniebell Hall began playing piano at age three and was soon performing for her home church as a child prodigy. She moved from Pennsylvania to San Francisco as a teenager, then married and eventually had three children. Ms. Hall formed the gospel quartet *Danniebells* in 1969 that embarked on worldwide gospel tour. A few years later, she joined the acclaimed gospel performing and recording group *Andraé Crouch & the Disciples*. The singer is best known as the featured vocalist on such classic 1970s Gospel songs as "Take Me Back" and "Soon and Very Soon."

Ms. Hall sang and produced several solo albums that spanned the next two and a half decades, including the popular Gospel hit, "Ordinary People," which she wrote, and is included on her 1977 album "Let Me Have A

Dream." A talented music arranger, she also found great fulfillment in being a lyricist, penning songs that would be recorded by such notable artists as Eartha Kitt and Pat Boone.

On her memorial nameplate is the title of her 1992 album: "The Designer's Original"





CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation promoting
Cypress Lawn Cemetery as a historical and
educational resource for the Bay Area community.

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Vintage Images of Cypress Lawn



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