



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

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LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello friends of Savannah Cemetery! My name is Joanne Russell-Chavez and I am the new President of the El Monte Cemetery Association also known as Savannah Memorial Park. I was appointed by the Board of Directors in July after previously serving as Vice President. I have been a long-time resident of Rosemead and have lived in this area most of my life. I graduated from San Gabriel High School and often spent time between the San Gabriel and Rosemead areas. I am very excited to be the new President of the cemetery and to hopefully drive the cemetery to new heights which it had not previously attained.

I currently sit on the Traffic Commission with the City of Rosemead and would really like to strengthen our current relationship with the city. As a matter of fact, Savannah and the City of Rosemead have already partnered to re-pave the driveway at the cemetery. The City has offered an interest-free long-term loan to the Cemetery to cover the costs to fully replace the existing asphalt driveway at the cemetery. This will allow the Cemetery to budget its expenses over a 10-year period while maintaining its costs for cemetery operations.

I also want to aggressively move to complete our historical landmark project. I am seeking to drive the Board to finalize our landmark plaque and monument construction. I believe we can raise funds from a number of sources in order to finance our plans for an elaborate housing for our California Historical Landmark.

I have also discussed my plans for growth with Stephen Gill, CEO of M.C. Gill Corporation, who has been our largest benefactor over the years. I am very encouraged by his support for our growth plan and we are currently working with Mr. Gill on an upcoming fund-raising effort to raise

additional funds for the cemetery. But in order to make my vision come true, I need the help of volunteers. I believe we have a great Board of Directors who works a large number of hours to manage the cemetery. And we have a great volunteer base to assist in running and administrating the cemetery. We also have a fantastic relationship with the City of Rosemead to help us reach our goal of being a vital part of this community.

I look forward to the next year and am very excited to be a part of the historical Savannah Cemetery legacy. Please feel free to send me any suggestions and thoughts on how we can take the Cemetery to the next level. I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Joanne Russell-Chavez, President



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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

What is the fire in our belly but the eternal flame of a thousand ancestors.

Robert Brault

**An Early Pioneer . . .****Michael Fay Quinn**

Pleasantly remembered by many of El Monte citizens is the name of M.F. Quinn, who in the early days would frequently crowd a load of the town's children into his spring wagon and proudly drive with them to a circus in Los Angeles, or on May Day would decorate the old lumber wagon with roses and other flowers and head a picnic party to the mountains.

M.F. Quinn was born February 14, 1836, the son of Mary F. and John Quinn, natives of County Limerick, Ireland.

He was left an orphan at the age of four, and became self-supporting at the age of fourteen. About 1850 he came to America and in 1854 entered the United States Army as quartermaster in an expedition against the Sioux Indians. He served in this capacity in the middle west for one year, when, wishing to complete his education, he entered the Illinois State University. While in school there, he became a classmate of Robert T. Lincoln, son of President Lincoln. Following his school years he again served under his former commander in an expedition against the rebellious Mormons of Utah.

In 1859, he came with a wagon train to California, arriving in Los Angeles in March of that year. His first venture following his arrival here was that of prospecting for gold in San Gabriel Canyon, which ended without success. He taught school in El Monte for a time, and later engaged in the trade of wheelwright. In 1860 he opened a shop in which he followed his trade, expanding his activities later to include a livery stable and dray business. He acquired twenty acres of land north and west of town, a portion of which he devoted to farming and the remainder was his home site and pasture for his stock, all of which he retained until his death.

In 1868 he married Jane Glenn-Callan, who with her parents were natives of Texas, coming to California in 1858. Mrs. Callan, before her marriage to Mr. Quinn, was the mother of two children, Jacob M., now residing in Fullerton and Mary (Mrs. J.W. Goodell, now deceased).

To Mr. and Mrs. Quinn were born three children, Inez F. (Mrs. Thatcher, deceased), Ada M. (Mrs. H.C. Brasher of

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

October 23, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Wreath Laying Ceremony
United States Daughters of 1812

November 11, 2013

Veterans' Day
Retiring of the Colors

Los Angeles), and Susie (Mrs. J.O. Nichols) of Orange. Mrs. Quinn died in 1876 while the three children were quite young. In 1886, while Mr. Quinn was engaged in benefit work in the Good Templars and Forrester's Lodges, he met and married Miss Fannie Sawyer, who was a native of Indiana. Mrs. Quinn was quite prominent socially, at one time being president of the Shakespeare club. Her death occurred in 1920.

Politically Mr. Quinn was originally a Democrat, but in later years he became active in temperance work and became

a staunch Prohibitionist. He was a member of the Forrester's and Good Templar Lodges, and was one of the organizers of the Society of Pioneers of Los Angeles county, serving for a time as its president and remaining an active worker in this society throughout the remainder of his life. He was a man of high ideals, charitable and generous to a fault. He read a great deal and was a lover of poetry, often quoting the familiar lines, "The meal unshared is food unblessed, --Thou hoardest in vain

what love should spend." "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil," was his reply on various occasions when he preferred not to commit himself. An in reproach of those who would speak disparagingly of the Bible, he would often quote: "Ha, better had he ne'er been born, than he who reads and reads to scorn."

His college training in engineering and surveying enabled him to qualify efficiently as County Highway Commissioner, which office he held for a time. In this capacity, Mr. Quinn rendered the community valuable services in the early movements toward good roads, for which the county and state are world-renowned. His appointment to the office of Justice of the Peace gave him the title of Judge Quinn by which he was fondly known in later years.

Mr. Quinn retired from active work in 1902, at which time he sold his livery and dray business to the firm of Wiggins and Cleminson. Death called him in 1911, ending a life of loyal service to the community, which he loved and so long served.

(Source:
http://www.cagenweb.com/re/losangeles/ElMonteBios/QUINN_MichaelF.htm)



Children of the Savannah...

**Helen Lorraine Spohr
& Katherine Martin**

In 1949, two weeks before Christmas, Helen Lorraine Spohr died of pneumonia in her grandparent's home during a mild California winter. The fair-haired child, ten months old, was born with a heart defect often fatal in the 1940s. Known as a "blue baby," her fragile respiratory system could not, in the end, sustain her life.

It had been a hard year for the Spohr family. Wilbert and Helen Hensel Spohr (married when he was 21 and she 17), divorced after baby Helen's birth. He was granted custody of their children. Three years out of the Navy, Wilbert Spohr with three youngsters moved back home.



In the early hours of December 10th a fire engine rushed into the neighborhood of small houses on Dorothy Avenue. Neighbors awoke as red lights flashed against their windows and lit the somber form of Frederick Spohr pacing nervously across his yard.

Inside the house, Helen's brother Frederick, 3, and sister Margaret, 2, awakened. Her young aunt, Naomi Spohr, saw the events through the eyes of a 10-year-old and remembered forever. From a doorway she peeked into the bedroom where Helen lay, an oxygen mask covering her face, "her little stomach going up and down" as firemen worked to save her. The screen door sounded as they rushed in and out.

Stillness came at 3:45 a.m., and all who stood vigil on Dorothy Avenue whispered the news. The baby is dead.

Helen was buried in the infant section of Savannah Cemetery on December 13, 1949. Angels on her headstone proclaimed "Beloved Baby." She would not be alone for long.

In May of 1953, Helen Hensel and husband Marvin Martin returned to Savannah after their newborn, Katherine, twenty-three weeks premature, died. In life, sisters share many things. In death, the siblings share a grave. Katherine Martin's one-foot-long casket was buried near her half-sister Helen and thereafter, though known to but a few, under one headstone rest two beloved babies.

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OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Jorge Laires Alcore	Barbara Haage
Don & Mary Alley	Peggy & Nancy Huetig
Sally Baquet	Connie Johnson
Leah Bishop & Gary Yale	Carol Marburger
Phyllis Bisser	Daniel Munoz
Myrna Brown	Anna Pick
Marilyn Wiggins Burdick	Ken Pike
T & E Carrow	Mary Ann Powers
Betty Cook	Rosemead Kiwanis
Doris Crain	Patricia Ruth
Darlene Cravea	Renay Wallace
Edward DeCarbo	Janice White
Madeline Gongora	Walter White

Wreath Laying Ceremony
War of 1812 Veterans
John Holt (1792-1872)
And
Wiley Richie Wilson (1800-1878)

The Joel Brigham Chapter
 United States Daughters of 1812
 will recognize
 Savannah's two veterans of the
 War of 1812

October 23, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Please join us for this free event at
 Savannah Memorial Park to honor these veterans

*CURRENT OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
EL MONTE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
dba SAVANNAH MEMORIAL PARK*

*Joanne Russell-Chavez, President & Director
Virgil Ervin, Vice President & Director
Bob Bruesch, Secretary & Director
Janice Wiggins-White, Treasurer & Director*

*Joe Castillo, Director
Dwain Crum, Director
Jeff Haskins, Director
Heather Hooper, Director
Glen Linch, Director*



RETIRING OF THE COLORS

Bring your worn or damaged U. S. flags to the cemetery on November 11, 2013 for our annual retiring of the colors. We will be disposing of old flags in the proper and respectful way. Check our website for details. www.savannahcemetery.org

El Monte Cemetery Association
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