



**Fairmount Memorial Association**

Summer 2010  
Volume 3

# Journeys

Fairmount Memorial Park • Greenwood Memorial Terrace • Woodlawn Cemetery • Riverside Memorial Park • Spokane Memorial Gardens

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## Spokane, the Birthplace of “Father’s Day”

As the nation celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father’s Day on June 20, Fairmount Memorial Association unveiled and dedicated a monument at the grave of the woman known as the “*Mother of Father’s Day*.”

Alongside the monument for Sonora Louise Smart Dodd at Greenwood Memorial Terrace, a stone bench was dedicated in tribute to her father – and the inspiration for Father’s Day -- William J. Smart. A newly constructed waterfall trickles down the hillside behind the newly erected monuments to father and daughter. Dozens of people, including numerous members of the Smart-Dodd families, attended the dedication ceremony which was one of several events held Father’s Day weekend to celebrate Spokane as the “*Birthplace of Father’s Day*.”



Barbara Dodd Hillerman shared memories of her grandmother, who was inspired to create a holiday just for dads during a Mother’s Day sermon in 1909 at Spokane’s Central Methodist Church. “She would entreat all of us to continue to uphold the highest ideals of fatherhood for the next 100 years,” Dodd Hillerman said.

William J. Smart – had raised Sonora and her five siblings following his wife’s death in the late 1890s. In a June 1942 Spokesman-Review article, Dodd related the story of her mother’s death and her father’s dedication to raising his children. “He felt fatherhood was a lifelong task,” Sonora was quoted as saying, “and he never relinquished its duties and responsibilities until his death in 1919. Even after



my brothers and I were married, he was mindful of his obligations for he was a golden rule type of father.” Sonora presented a petition in 1910 before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance meeting at the Spokane YMCA seeking recognition for fathers during church services in June. The first Father’s Day sermons were presented in Spokane-area churches on June 19, 1910. Both the mayor of Spokane and Washington governor issued Father’s Day proclamations. In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson opened the first official national Father’s Day services. Presidents Calvin Coolidge and

Lyndon Johnson later signed proclamations that Father’s Day be observed and, in 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father’s Day a national holiday.

Jerry Numbers, chairman of the Centennial Father’s Day Committee, emceed the dedication at Dodd’s grave. Following an invocation by the Rev. Happy Watkins, Numbers spoke about how the Centennial Celebration came to be. Spokane Mayor Mary Verner read “Bide Here With Us,” a poem Sonora Dodd wrote for the First Indian Congress in Spokane in 1913. Additional selections of Dodd’s poetry were read by Miss Spokane Kylee Denevan and J.J. Brown, who was selected Miss Congeniality in the Miss Washington Outstanding Teen Pageant.

Fairmount Memorial Association President Duane Broyles unveiled the monument, which is the latest in a series of historic markers Fairmount Memorial Association has dedicated in partnership with the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum History Book Committee. A nearly identical monument was erected at the Numbers’ home at 603 S. Arthur where Dodd lived with her husband and son, Jack. In addition to founding Father’s Day, Sonora Smart Dodd was active in civic affairs and a well-known poet, author and artist.

For more information on Dodd and the history of Father’s Day, visit [www.fathersdaybirthplace.com](http://www.fathersdaybirthplace.com).

## *A Message from the President*



Over the 122-year history of our cemetery association there have been many changes in funeral and cemetery products and services. However, one thing remains unchanged: Our commitment to our lot owners.

Like any business, cemeteries must evolve with the current trends and consumer demands. But unlike any other business, as trends and demands change we cannot walk away from our past promises. If your loved one was entrusted to our care 100 years ago, they are still entrusted to our care today and we hold true to our commitments.

It is not always easy, with stock market fluctuations affecting endowed care and maintenance revenues. Fortunately, our cemeteries are blessed with a board of endowment trustees dedicated to the long-term growth of our funds and the viable operation of our cemeteries.

*Duane Broyles, President of Fairmount Memorial Association*

## *Celebrating Memorial Day*



Memorial Day weekend is a time to celebrate and remember loved ones and that's exactly what thousands of people were doing as Fairmount Memorial Association hosted its annual weekend-long celebration.

With the theme of *“Remembering Roy Rogers and Other Western Heroes,”* the festivities included a brass band concert at the Cross of Inspiration and displays of Western artifacts and memorabilia at Heritage Funeral Home. At High Noon on Monday, performers from the Rockin’ B Ranch entertained a standing room-only crowd at Heritage Chapel.

Visitors to Fairmount’s cemeteries were greeted with a patriotic display of flag-lined cemetery avenues. More than 3,000 flags are flown Memorial Day weekend, comprising Fairmount’s award-winning tribute to our veterans. Each flag once covered the casket of a veteran and was donated by the veteran’s family and each flag flies in the same location each year.



The weekend marked the opening of a joint Fairmount Memorial Association/Red Cross exhibit at the historic Kirtland Cutter Rock Chapel honoring the Spokane women known as the “Gray Ladies,” who were trained and offered patient support during World War II. The display included vintage Red Cross uniforms.

The Melvin M. Smith Detachment #586 of the Marine Corps League and VFW Post 51 held a Memorial Day Ceremony at Sunset Chapel. USMC Capt. John M. Stevens was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Young Savannah Rose sang the National Anthem, Piper Steve Brown played “Amazing Grace,” and Bugler Aaron Smith played Taps. Veterans from



every branch of the military were recognized as the songs of the Armed Services were played. The “P” Battery, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines provided a rifle detail.

The Greater Spokane Elks #228 presented a Memorial Day Service at Spokane Memorial Gardens.

At Riverside Memorial Park, Fairmount Memorial Association provided free lunch and refreshments while visitors enjoyed an antique and classic car display and historic displays at Heritage Funeral Home.

## *Cemetery Contact Information*

Fairmount Memorial Park	509-326-3800	Spokane Memorial Gardens	509-448-2620
Greenwood Memorial Terrace	509-838-1405	Woodlawn Cemetery	509-326-3800
Riverside Memorial Park	509-838-1405	<a href="http://www.fairmountmemorial.com">www.fairmountmemorial.com</a>	

## *Lewis Dedication*

Spokane's first police detective William H. Lewis was memorialized May 13 as Fairmount Memorial Association dedicated a monument at Greenwood Memorial Terrace in his honor.

Lewis was born in Manlius, New York, and moved west becoming a stagecoach driver in Montana, Wyoming and the Black Hills. In his memoirs, Lewis wrote that while driving stagecoach he was the first civilian to arrive at Custer's Battlefield.

He was a police officer in Helena, Montana, before moving with his wife and two children to Spokane Falls in 1887. Lewis was hired as a guard at the town jail and sworn in as a special officer for Spokane Police that same year.

He became a regular officer in May 1888 and was made the department's first detective in 1891. He left the force in 1893 for mining, but returned to the force within a few years.



As the department's first police photographer, Lewis developed an identification unit for the department and started a catalog of thumbprints and mug shots. His "Rogue's Gallery" was the largest in Washington and fellow officers from across the nation traveled to Spokane to view his collection and learn from Lewis.

He was also responsible for designing the police department's first automated police signal system with the help of city electrician Albert F. Thielman.

In 1903 he organized the Spokane Police Beneficial Association to provide for officers injured or killed in the line of duty and their family members. He became the police department's first inspector in 1910 and served in that position until retiring in 1918.

He died on July 1, 1944.

Photos and personal artifacts belonging to Lewis are on display at the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum, which opened this spring at 1201 W. First Ave.

To view pictures from recent historical marker dedications, visit [www.fairmount.zenfolio.com](http://www.fairmount.zenfolio.com)

## *Employee Spotlight*

### *David Clark, Monument Shop Manager and Designer*

David Clark had just gotten out of the Army and was looking for work when he came to Fairmount Memorial Association in 1989. His father, Dale Clark, was Fairmount's grounds superintendent at the time and David was hired on the summer grounds crew. The seasons changed, but David Clark stayed on.

When Fairmount Memorial Association began exploring the idea of adding a monument shop to the services they could offer customers, Clark was the first to volunteer for the job. "I had always been fascinated to see the other guys come out and set a marker," he said.

In 1994, Fairmount opened the monument facility with Clark and another employee. A lot of what he knows is self-taught and it has been an ongoing learning process. Now a combination of state of the art computer graphics and handcraft techniques are used to create high quality and unique granite markers.

One of the projects Clark is most proud of is a memorial bench created for a young man complete with his portrait, a motorcycle, baseball bats, a fly rod, Navy anchor and poem.

After 20 years at Fairmount Memorial Association, Clark still enjoys coming to work.

"At a tragic time when a family has lost a loved one, I have the opportunity to help give them peace of mind," he said. "There's a satisfaction and fulfillment in pleasing families and helping them make the transition of saying goodbye."



## Dumping Hunger

Fairmount Memorial Association employees and board members donated 1,182 pounds of food plus \$1,708.00 during the recent “*Dump Hunger*” food drive campaign.

“*Dump Hunger*” is a six-week, post-holiday food drive sponsored by Western States Equipment. The timing correlates with the months of the year – January and February – that food banks typically receive the least amount of food donations.

Fairmount Memorial Association’s contributions to “*Dump Hunger*,” along with others’, helped quadruple the campaign’s original collection goal of 150,000 pounds, equal to about eight dump truck loads of food. Spokane’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank received a check equal to nearly 59,000 pounds of food.

Leading the way for Fairmount Memorial Association: Board Members donated \$855; Greenwood Memorial Terrace staff donated \$670 and 30 pounds of food and Fairmount Memorial Park staff donated \$153 and 309 pounds of food.



## Flag Retirement - February 15, 2010



On President’s Day, Fairmount Memorial Association hosted Boy Scout troops from Spokane and surrounding areas at Greenwood Memorial Terrace for a solemn flag retirement ceremony.

The Boy Scouts assisted in properly retiring dozens of flags collected from the American Red Cross and other institutions at the flag burning ceremony. The Gold Star Mothers, Sons of the American Revolution and local veterans organizations participated in the occasion.



During the ceremony, the Red Cross donated two 48-star American flags to Fairmount Memorial Association. The flags had flown during World War II and the Korean War above the Red Cross’ Spokane headquarters in the historical Paulsen Center, which was Spokane’s first skyscraper.

The Red Cross also donated a historic flag that flew over Spokane’s City Hall during the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1979-1980.

The flags are on permanent display at the Kirtland Cutter Rock Chapel at Fairmount Memorial Park.



## Independence Day

Independence Day saw the debut of Fairmount’s latest historic Rock Chapel exhibit: “Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in Washington State.”

The display included a historical timeline of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, artifacts on loan from the Hutton Settlement and items from the American Revolutionary War.

A floral wreath was placed at the gravesite of suffrage movement leader May Hutton by three young Hutton Settlement residents.



## *Walking With Ancestors*

**H**istory came to life July 31, 2010 as Fairmount Memorial Association and the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society presented “Walking With Ancestors.”

Guided tours of Fairmount Memorial Park originated at the cemetery’s historic Kirtland Cutter Rock Chapel. The tours included stops at several historic gravesites in the cemetery where genealogical society volunteers in period costume portrayed the individuals buried there. The volunteers discussed the individuals’ accomplishments and contributions to Spokane’s history.

The Genealogical Society and volunteers were available to help people research their family trees. Fairmount Memorial Association employees were on hand with computers to help locate ancestors’ graves at Fairmount Memorial Park.

Lectures throughout the day included topics such as how to clean headstones and how to take rubbings of headstone epitaphs.

The Rock Chapel was open during the event with an exhibit celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage in Washington. The display included artifacts on loan from the Hutton Settlement, items from the American Revolutionary War and a historical timeline of the women’s suffrage movement.



## Quilt Show



The work of noted machine quilter, teacher and artist Pam Clarke was featured during a Mother's Day Weekend quilt show at Fairmount Memorial Park's Kirtland Cutter Rock Chapel May 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Clarke has been long arm machine quilting and designing her own quilts since 1986. Donations were collected for 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank during the quilt show and a drawing was held for an original Pam Clarke quilt.



## Bruce Alan Grandstaff Monument Dedication



Bruce Alan Grandstaff received the military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for "selfless gallantry, above and beyond the call of duty" while serving in Vietnam.

Grandstaff was leading the Weapons Platoon, Company B, on a reconnaissance mission near the Cambodian border on May 18, 1967, when the platoon came under fire from three sides, according to the official military citation. Although every man in his platoon was a casualty, survivors attested to Grandstaff's indomitable spirit and courage. He inspired his men to fight courageously despite overwhelming odds.

On September 11, 2010 a monument will be dedicated at Greenwood Memorial Terrace in honor of the Army platoon sergeant who gave his life for his country.

## Celebrating Arbor Day - April 17, 2010



Sixteen trees were planted at Riverside Memorial Park as Spokane Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts answered the Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross' call to celebrate Arbor Day.

David Ittner, Superintendent of Grounds for Fairmount Memorial Association, oversaw the work of the scouts. The youth learned about the history of Arbor Day – including the 1954 United Nations call to every country of the world to honor the economic, cultural and aesthetic value of trees on one day of the year.

Today, most countries of the world hold Arbor

Day ceremonies and host tree plantings yearly.

Fairmount Memorial Association and the American Red Cross presented certificates of accomplishment to participating Scouts, parents and leaders.



## Upcoming and Ongoing Events

### **Spokane County Interstate Fair, Sept. 10 - 19**

Visit the Fairmount Memorial Association's booth during the Spokane County Interstate Fair at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center.

### **Bruce Alan Grandstaff Monument Dedication, Sept. 11**

Greenwood Memorial Terrace will be the site of the dedication to honor the Army platoon sergeant who gave his life for his country.

### **Heritage Family Album Classes, Ongoing**

Tell your family's story with the help of Fairmount Memorial Association. Participants in Fairmount's free monthly scrapbooking classes receive a Family Heritage Album and Creative Memories scrapbooking materials compliments of Fairmount Memorial Association. To get started, just bring 10 to 12 family pictures. Fresh coffee, juice and tasty pastries are provided. Classes are held the first Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at the Fairmount Memorial Park Sunset Chapel at 5200 W. Wellesley Ave. Please reserve your space by calling (509) 747-4029.



For more information on events visit [www.fairmountmemorial.com](http://www.fairmountmemorial.com)

## Monument Shop

It used to be that outside vendors would make the markers gracing gravesites at Fairmount Memorial Association's cemeteries. "It was hard to get those outside companies to deliver the level of customer service we wanted for our lot owners," said David Clark, manager of Fairmount's marker and monument shop.

Fairmount Memorial Association started exploring the possibility of having an on-site marker shop and, in 1994, opened the marker shop at Fairmount Memorial Park. Since establishing the on-site production facility, Fairmount Memorial Association offers custom design options at no additional charge including personalization, extra lines of text, emblems, deep sunk letters, signatures, foreign lettering and final inscriptions.

The operation, which consisted of a 10x10-foot office and a single cabinet for sandblasting, quickly grew. Today there are five employees and four sand-blasting machines. In addition to the regular workflow, the marker shop creates the historic markers placed throughout Fairmount's cemeteries by

Fairmount Memorial Association and the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum History Book Committee.



Flat markers are the most common produced at the marker shop, followed by benches and upright monuments. The most popular size of marker – 44x20 inches of 4-inch slab stone – weighs nearly 400 pounds. A 24x12-inch marker weighs about 130 pounds. Some of the latest trends include custom personalization and portraits. Artist Kevin Smith converts photographs into line art from which a stencil is

created. All of the designs used to create markers are computer-based. Stencils are created in a process that is similar to silk-screening. Stones are engraved in intricate detail in sandblasting booths where precision and a steady hand are key.

"In our jobs here, you need a bit of artistic ability," Clark said. "You can train someone to hold a hose, but your heart and passion have to be into it."



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