



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Fall 2015

A VERY SPECIAL PARK

“Quirky and Fun, Max and Erma Offered A Neighborhood Gathering Place”

By Tracy Bleim

Max J. Visocnik was the third child of Gregory and Mary Visocnik. A beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews, "Uncle Max" played a great part in their lives.

Max lived at home with his mother for most of his life, until he went to war in WW II. He served in the Pacific Theater as a driver of an armored gun carrier. During his service, he was involved in many battles and lost his hearing as a result of the gunfire. His most dangerous service was in the campaign for Saipan and when he returned home, he was very ill.

When Max drove a delivery truck for Ben Brew, he delivered beer to Annie Kaiser's Bar. Max always told Annie he would buy the place when she retired.

Well, when Max came home from service and he had recovered, he held many different jobs. Eventually, he met and married Erma Schoonover and they ended up buying Kaiser's Cafe in 1958, like Max had hoped he would.

Max and Erma Visocnik lived above the bar that they owned. Erma would cook their meals in the kitchen of the bar and soon some regular customers began asking Erma to make enough for them, too. Erma continued cooking for the customers, while Max tended the bar. Eventually, they had to hire some serving help and "Max and Erma's" was born. (continued on page 3)



Puzzle

Where was the second restaurant of "Max and Erma's" located?

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President's Message

Autumn is perhaps the most beautiful time of the year at Green Lawn Cemetery. And one of the most beautiful things about living and working in Columbus is the collaboration among the people and organizations that make our community great.

It is the mission of Green Lawn's Community Partnership Committee to establish Green Lawn Cemetery as a respected community partner by working with other area organizations and businesses to build awareness of the cemetery's rich history and its attributes as an important green space. In this spirit, the Friends of Green Lawn and Columbus Landmarks Foundation have announced a new partnership of educational outreach – seasonal tours that focus on both the art and the botanical features of Green Lawn. Read more in this issue of the *Heritage*.

Projects championed by the Grounds and Historic Preservation Committee to keep this Very Special Park beautiful for future generations are possible because of the generosity of the Friends of Green Lawn, a partnership of over 200 individual donors. We need more friends like you! On behalf of Green Lawn's Board of Trustees during this season of Thanksgiving, I thank you for your friendship and leave you with a quote by Joseph Sullivant, Green Lawn Association President, 1852:

"... and a strong desire to furnish a spot where Art, guided by taste, might be united with Nature in distinguishing and adorning the last resting place of those bound to us by the strong ties of affection and love..."

Sincerely,

Yoci Vorys
President

**Please review our Events Calendar on our website at
www.greenlawncemetery.org**

Thank You

Tribute to a Founder and Friend

The Board and Staff at Green Lawn are saddened by the death of Mrs. Richard M. (Libby) Ross. Ever the strong and thoughtful leader, Libby's legacy of giving to the community focused on the arts and education, and she was a faithful supporter of the Friends of Green Lawn.

In 2008, the Ross Family made a lead gift of \$250,000 to Green Lawn Cemetery's Founders Society project in honor of Richard M. Ross. The Founders Society gift was made by Mrs. Richard M. Ross and her four children: Richard M. Ross, Jr.; Sally Ross Soter; G. Alexander Ross and Marcia Ross Blackburn. This generous family tribute recognized Richard M. (Dick) Ross as the President of Ross Labs, the nation's largest producer of infant formula and adult nutritional drinks. He was serving as retired president at the time of his death in 1993. The Founders Society recognition at Green Lawn permanently acknowledges the significant and distinguished contributions that Dick Ross made to Columbus as a businessman and philanthropist. Dick's commitment to Green Lawn included multiple terms on the Board of Trustees beginning in 1965.

Green Lawn continues to honor and celebrate the lives of both Libby and Dick Ross through the legacy of the Ross Family's membership in the Founders Society. We are so grateful for their leadership and their friendship.

(Max and Erma's continued)

After spending most of their lives in the apartment above the bar, restaurateur Barry Zacks and a business partner, Todd Barnum approached Max and Erma to buy the place in 1972. After a few more visits and going through a list of over 200 new names, they settled on a price that included the use of their first names - "Max and Erma's".

On December 28, 1972, "Max and Erma's" opened its doors. The original restaurant had become a German Village landmark with more than 2 million people walking through their doors each year. Some people think of Max and Erma's as an institution, others simply as their "neighborhood gathering place".

At Green Lawn Cemetery, you can find the marker of Max and Erma in Section 118, Lot 94. Erma Visocnik died in 1977 and Max passed away in 1995.



Max, a veteran himself, always saved room at his bar for his fellow vets, along with men and women who were actively serving in the military. Over the years, Max & Erma's would routinely offer free cheeseburgers or meals on Veterans Day to honor veterans and active military personnel.



In the preliminary report from OSU, it was determined that the cedar trees sampled had phytophthora root rot, which are soil-borne pathogens that can survive in the soil for years. Development of the disease is favored by warm weather and wet soil conditions (such as the fen at Cedar Bog).

Unfortunately, if all of the cedar trees succumb to this, it will negatively impact Cedar Bog's Showy Lady Slipper Orchids.



The Showy Lady Slipper Orchids at Cedar Bog rely on a fungus that is released from the cedar trees for their growth and survival.

Cedar Bog Nature Preserve boasts one of the largest populations of Showy Lady Slipper Orchids in the state. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently counted 471 in bloom on June 5, 2014.

September 5, 2015 - First Saturday Program "Understanding Ice Age Relics and Climate Change"

Tracy Bleim, Site Manager of Cedar Bog Nature Preserve shared information on the changes that have occurred at Cedar Bog due to climate change.

Over the last few years, it was noticed that several of Cedar Bog's white cedar trees or arbor vitae were dying. Last December, Site Manager Tracy Bleim worked with Jesse Bodey of Bodey Family Tree Service to remove a small cedar tree along with its roots (which is no easy task!) to take to the Ohio State University lab for testing to determine a cause.

Several cedar trees at Cedar Bog are between 800-1,000 years old, which is another reason that they may be dying. Cedar Bog could be going through a succession with its cedar trees.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Lawn-Cemetery/381128311903707>

Architecture, History, and Nature Through the Seasons

The Friends of Green Lawn Cemetery and Columbus Landmarks Foundation are pleased to announce a new partnership of educational outreach—seasonal walking tours that focus on both the art of the cemetery and the botanical features of this very special park. Each two hour tour will focus on a different part of the historic cemetery and its natural beauty as it changes through the seasons. Green Lawn is Central Ohio's preeminent 19th century cemetery, reflected in roots to the Cemetery Beautiful Movement in New England. Green Lawn Cemetery encompasses more than 200 years of Columbus history, stories, and architectural preferences, and is home to champion trees, diverse old growth species, and wildlife.



The first tour was an autumn walk with naturalist Randy Rogers and historian Doreen Uhas-Sauer on Sunday, October 25th, and featured the early founders, 19th century monuments, and the landscape of a Victorian cemetery. Fifty people enjoyed the beautiful afternoon and fascinating stories. Subsequent (and different) tours are planned for January (winter); April (spring); July (summer); and October (autumn) of 2016. Reservations are preferred but walk-ups will be accommodated whenever possible.



We meet at the Huntington Chapel. Tickets are \$10 for Friends of Green Lawn and/or Columbus Landmarks Foundation members and \$15 for nonmembers. To check specific dates and times or to purchase tickets go to www.columbuslandmarks.org. Please join us!

October 3, 2015 - First Saturday Program World War I and II Gardens with Lisa Wood

Our October 3rd, the First Saturday Program featured Lisa Wood of the Ohio History Connection who led a free lecture at 11 am on "Every Garden a Munitions Plant: War Gardens in World War I and II".

"During the World Wars, the government encouraged planting gardens to avoid food shortages and promote health," stated Wood.

Curator Lisa Wood shared photographs, posters and other war garden memorabilia during the First Saturday Program.

2015 Calendar of Events

First Saturday Programs at Green Lawn, held the first Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Huntington Chapel, takes a look at the lives of people interred here. Programs are free and open to the public.

December 5—First Saturday at Green Lawn. *How to Read Fading Gravestone Inscriptions.* Katie Karrick of Ohio Cemetery Preservation Society.

December 12 -- Wreaths Across America Program. Noon in Section M

January 2—Happy New Year! No First Saturday Program scheduled

February 6—First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Titanic: A Unique Perspective.*

Maggie Bailey of the Titanic International Society and former school librarian.

Do You Have Family or Friends Interred at Green Lawn?

If you have family or friends interred at Green Lawn Cemetery and you have permission to be buried on their lot, you may be granted a Second Right of Internment. A Second Right of Internment allows family or friends that have obtained permission from the lot owner to be buried or cremated and placed in the lot with that lot owner. Permission must be obtained from the lot owner for a conventional burial or cremation burial to occur. For more information on Second Right of Internment, please contact Green Lawn at 614-444-1123 for additional details.

Planning Ahead in Life



Answer to the Puzzle

The second restaurant of Max & Erma's was a freestanding "warehouse style" building on the East side of Columbus, which opened in April 1975. It was designed as a family restaurant until 8:30, and then a disco later at night with a dance floor over the bar.



"Like" us on Facebook at Green-Lawn-Cemetery

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A VERY SPECIAL PARK

**PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT NO. 1561**

CEMETERY GATES

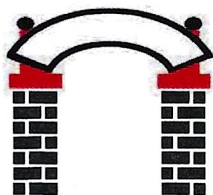
Open 7 Days/Week

November-March

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

April-October

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM



OFFICE

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday

Noon to 4:00 PM



CHAPEL

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday

Noon to 4 PM

Closed Most Holidays



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Green Lawn Heritage Newsletter

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