



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Summer 2012

Leo Yassenoff left his mark all around Columbus

The name of Leo Yassenoff is associated today with the Jewish Community Center on the east side of Columbus. But many charitable associations count him among their benefactors.

Yassenoff was born in Piqua and educated in Dayton. He attended The Ohio State University where he earned a degree in journalism. While working in newspapers he realized it was the advertising people who made what he considered the real money.

He admits he learned the construction business on his own time and made a name for himself in that area. He built several theaters in Columbus, most noticeably the early drive-in theaters on West Broad Street, South High Street and 17th Avenue. His University Theater was dedicated to Ohio State football legend Chic Harley.

Yassenoff's love of football came naturally. He and his brother Solomon played for the Buckeyes in the early 1910s. In 1914, with both brothers on the team, the Buckeyes finished 5-2 overall, 2-2 in the Western Conference. The next year, with only Leo on the team, the Buckeyes finished 5-1-1 overall, 2-1-1 in the league.

He remained a Buckeye fan throughout his life. One story is that he loved to get into the locker room. At one game, Ohio State was trailing at halftime and Coach Woody Hayes was so agitated he couldn't talk. Yassenoff is said to have delivered the halftime pep talk. Ohio State went out in the second half and won the game.

He was also known to have help the players with clothing and jobs – before restrictions were put in place. Friends often said Leo never lost sight of people. His holiday card list often numbered up to 300 people. He was known as a wealthy man who hobnobbed with the ordinary person. One of his favorite charities was Charity Newsies where newspapers are sold to raise money for clothing for children.

He was also an avid reader of newspapers. He often would read stories of the good that people did and send the person a letter of congratulations. Sometimes there would be a check with that letter.

More on Leo Yassenoff on Page 2

Puzzle

Markers can show us the way, like this one at Green Lawn. Hint: It's part of the family name. Can you guess who it is? Perhaps you have seen it on your visits. Check page 3 to see if you are correct.



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President's Message



Congratulations and thank You, Linda

It is with mixed emotions that I congratulate Linda Burkey on her Aug. 1 retirement from Green Lawn Cemetery. As general manager from 1996 to 2012, Linda has worked tirelessly with the Board of Trustees to keep our Very Special Park beautiful by honoring the past and celebrating our Founders, increasing annual giving and endowment, and providing the energy and expertise to position Green Lawn for the future in partnership with Stonemor.

Green Lawn's significant role in keeping the city's past alive has been well documented throughout the Columbus 200 Celebration. This spring's Bicentennial Tour of Green Lawn in partnership with Columbus Landmarks Foundation was a huge hit and we look forward to future cooperative events. We were thrilled this year when the Little Garden Club of Columbus honored Green Lawn with a \$50,000 project award to plant native trees and shrubs at the Pond and the historic Bridge in commemoration of their 50th anniversary. And what would we ever do without our own Green Lawn Volunteers who so willingly share their knowledge and talents, and seem to appear like magic following every storm? Linda has nurtured these and so many other partnerships over 16 years, and we are a stronger organization because of her efforts.

Linda's hard work and legacy of caring assure a smooth transition and a strong foundation for her successor. We wish her the best, but will not say "goodbye" because we know that Linda Burkey will be our Very Special Friend for years to come. It is her devotion to Green Lawn's families for which we will be forever grateful.

Thank you, Linda!

Christina Brown
President

Leo Yassenoff

More on Leo Yassenoff from Page 1

By the time of his death he had accumulated several awards and citations for meritorious service to the community as well as a lot of money. He built an Orthodox synagogue in Columbus, the Agudas Achim Synagogue. He also built the Hillel House at Ohio State, and the Jewish Community Center that changed its name after his death to honor him. A considerable portion of his assets went to a charitable foundation.

He was born Oct. 15, 1893, and died in his Bexley home Aug. 30, 1971. He is buried in Section 91, Lot 53 at Green Lawn .

Calendar of Events

First Saturday 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

September 1 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Civil War Music.* Join us as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Steve Ball of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will entertain with music of the period. Tap your toes, clap your hands or sing along with Steve.

October 5 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Historic Hats.* Volunteers will model hats from several periods in history, a program presented by the Ladybugs and Buckeyes, a group of retired OSU employees.

October 26 — Make a Difference Day, a day of volunteering. Call 614-266-5218 to see what you can do at Green Lawn Cemetery when you choose to give back to your community.

November 3 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *The Rev. Phale D. Hale.* Join the Rev. Henry Johnson, pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church, as he talks about the Rev. Phale D. Hale, a civic leader in Columbus.

Heritage



Heavy Storm Damage

The June 29 storm that roared through Columbus heavily damaged Green Lawn Cemetery.

While residents of the area were dealing with downed trees and power outages, Green Lawn was also beginning a massive cleanup.

As many as 40 trees were either uprooted or snapped off close to the ground. Hundreds of limbs were sheared off.

These photos show a sampling of the damage incurred with that storm.

Thanks to the many volunteers who came out and helped clear away the debris. Your work is greatly appreciated.



Answer to Puzzle

The name on the marker is Galloway and can be found on the north part of the upper area of Section C. Sam Galloway served in the U.S. House with Abraham Lincoln and was an Ohio Secretary of State. Even though he lived in what we know today as downtown Columbus, he owned 200 acres of land in far western Franklin County. The community of Galloway bears his name.



Thank You

We gratefully acknowledge all donors to the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Annual Campaign (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) whose generous contributions are depended upon to maintain the architectural treasures and natural environment at Green Lawn Cemetery. We appreciate each of you for your commitment. This year we are especially grateful to the Little Garden Club of Columbus for honoring Green Lawn with a \$50,000 project award in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary.

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2013 Calendar Coming

The 2013 Green Lawn Cemetery calendar will focus on The Women of Green Lawn. Each month features a woman buried at the cemetery and most of the photos were submitted by women. Look for it soon.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Phone: (614)444-1123
Fax: (614)444-9815
Email: contactus@greenlawncolumbus.org
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