



# Cortland Rural Cemetery

110 TOMPKINS STREET • CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

MEMORIAL DAY 2002

## Iva and Humberto Garcinetti

By CHARLES MILLER

*In our last issue we solicited information about individuals buried in the Cortland Rural Cemetery. Among the first to arrive was this tale submitted by Charles Miller of New Jersey. He tells about his mother and stepfather, buried on lot W2-147, who, he says, have experiences "some different from most Cortlandites."*

"A while ago you requested interesting and unusual stories about some of those persons quietly in repose at the Cortland Rural Cemetery.

Go up the hill, towards the right, near the top, and there is a wide marker identifying my folks—Iva and Humberto Garcinetti, my mother and stepfather.

My mother was born in 1892. As a teenager she was an accomplished pianist and experienced the great classics under the late Professor Bentley. But after Conservatory graduation she discovered rag-time and jazz. She was only 19, and then she gave up her tomboy life to manage an all girls' orchestra, "The Seven Brown Girls" so named for their brunette hair color.

Iva's maiden name was Erway, changed first to Lane, changed second to Miller, changed third to Clark, and changed fourth to Garcinetti. Humberto Garcinetti was a Brazilian acrobat famous on stage and screen.

Shortly after their marriage, Humberto's brother retired and Iva was convinced to join the act. She learned acrobatics—after music. The new show, 'Garcinetti & Miller' covering 20



*The "Seven Brown Girls" circa 1915. Iva Erway Lane Miller Clark Garcinetti is second from the right.*

minutes, opened at the Cortland Opera House 75 years ago.

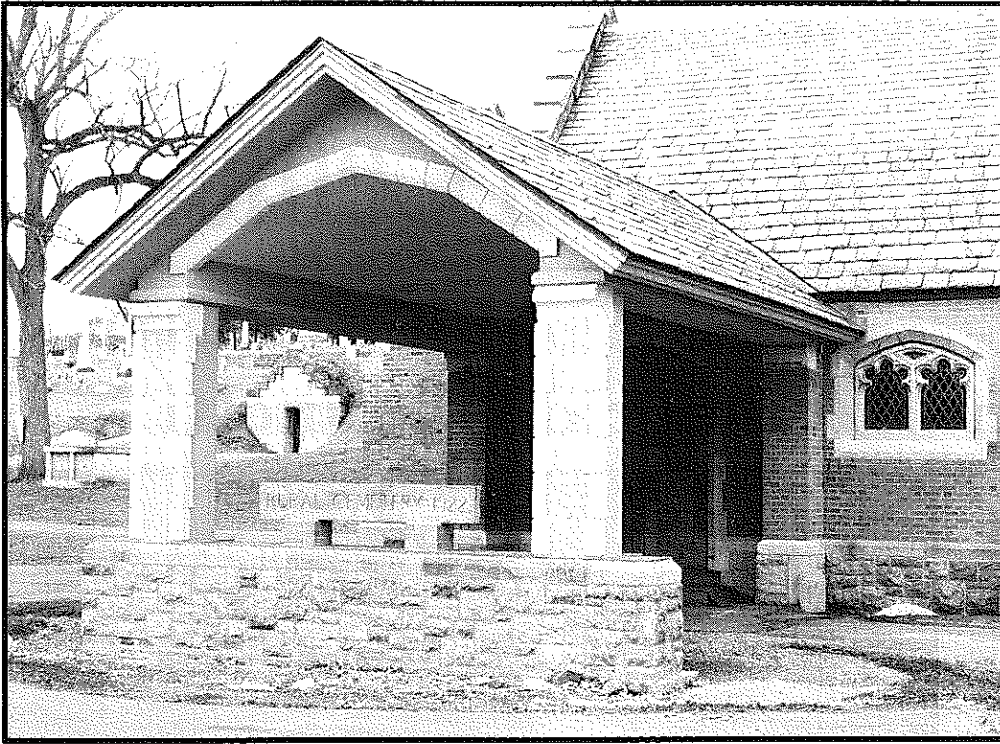
Mother never would try anything unless she could see a successful accomplishment. This new life lasted until the demise of Vaudeville with the advent of the 'talkies' several years later.

So Humberto wanted to open a restaurant in Cortland; my mother wanted a beauty parlor. Feeling that food and hair didn't mix too well, they chose a beauty salon named 'Kalos' which they operated for many, many years. My dad hated it, and after a morning of 'doing shampoos' he spent his time at the coffee counter at the Victory Restaurant.

Dad, who was a great guy and to whom I am indebted in many ways, passed on early in his life. Mother continued to manage the salon and flew many times to Europe for beauty conferences, etc. until she was 90.

She was always an actual beauty and used no cane, no walker, no crutches. She hated cooking and loved house cleaning. And she sped to the hundred-candled cake to blow them all out—and set off the smoke alarm—at year 100!

One year later (in 1992) she slipped on the ice when she got out of the car she was driving and said to Dad, 'Move over.' And he asked, 'What took you so long?' 🍄



*Built in 1922, the Cortland Rural Cemetery Chapel Porte-Cochere reconstruction is complete, except for paving and landscaping.*

*Designed by local Architect Christine Place, the reconstructed Porte-Cochere incorporates the effect of the quoins (fancy finish on two upright columns) which frame the doorway on the original entrance, and other features which complement the original design by Architect George Conable.*

## Chapel Work Continues

### *Porte-Cochere Restoration Nears Completion*

Thanks in large part to the generous support of the McDonald Foundation, and a \$10,000 grant obtained by New York State Senator Jim Seward, the restoration of the Porte-Cochere, the covered entranceway, to the historic Cortland Rural Cemetery is complete except for final paving and landscaping. Designed by Architect Christine Place, and built by ABL Construction of Cortland, the restoration features the original slate roof style and stone foundation wall along with a masonry finish to complement the stone and brick construction of the Chapel.

Still remaining to be done on the Chapel is repair of the stained glass windows (for which a portion of the money has been given by contributors.) We still need approximately \$6,000 to do that work. In addition, protective exterior safety glass needs to be added over many of the stained glass windows.

We are in the process of installing a new electrical service. New electrical locking mechanisms need to be installed on the main doors to provide secure daytime access to the building. Donations will be happily accepted to further this remaining work.

What this all leads to are the new cremation niches built into the walls of the interior of the Chapel. Designed and built to accommodate a single cremation, with couples selecting either a side-by-side or over-and-under pair of niches, these provide a permanent, weatherproof final resting place

for the many who are now choosing cremation. If this option interests you, please contact the Cemetery directly for an appointment to see them and for further information. Their phone number is 607-756-6022. 🌳



*The replacement roof was constructed of slate in the same manner as the original roof.*

# To the Editor

I read the article concerning the Frosts (November, 2001) with interest, especially the information concerning the operation of the floral business and its location. I recall 109 Tompkins Street being operated as Reynolds Flower Shop.

Of particular note to me was the reference to John Evans singing at Adolph Frost Senior's funeral. John W. Evans was my grandfather. He was choir director at the Memorial Baptist Church on Tompkins Street for many years. My mother, Violet E. Van Inwagen, told me he sang at many events as well. Grandpa was the son of Welsh singers who had settled in Cleveland, Ohio. He was recruited by the Wickwire Company and moved to Cortland. He married Bertha Stark, and they built a home at 19 Broadway where they raised their family.

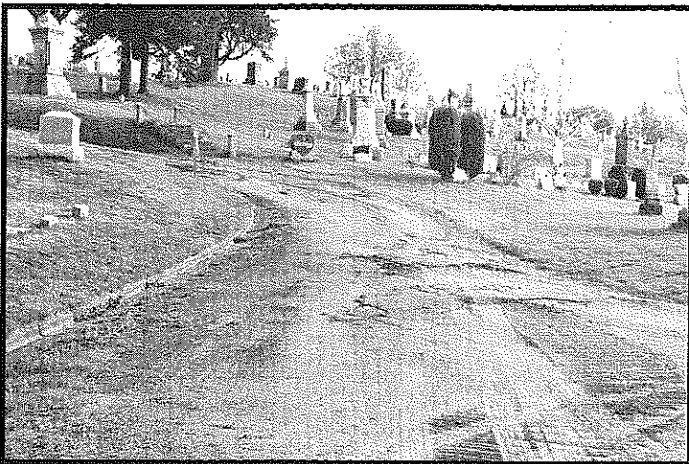
Grandpa, Grandma and my uncle Fay Evans are buried across from the entrance to the cemetery, next to the florist shop.

The newsletter stirs so many memories—thank you.

Sincerely,  
Louise Swoyer

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## Road Work Monies Requested



In the never-ending pursuit of road repairs, the Cemetery Foundation reminds you that your donations to the Foundation to continue road repairs are fully tax deductible. One of our fundamental annual projects is raising money and spending it on road reconstruction. Through your generous donations, we have managed to repair and resurface almost two thousand feet of road in the Cemetery over the past 5 years, but over 14,000 lineal feet of roads remain, on which much work must still be done. 🌳

## New Flower Fund

Starting this Spring, the Cemetery is offering a new Flower Fund program for lot owners. Those wishing to participate can place an amount of money in escrow (minimum \$300) which will be invested in an interest-earning deposit account.

An urn can be filled with flowers, or flower bed planted, each Spring and the cost will be deducted from the balance. Interest will be credited on the remaining money. If the balance is exhausted, the family will be notified and they can place additional funds in the account.

Please contact the Cemetery directly for more information at 607-756-6022.

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# "Annual Trees" Restoration Program

The Rural Cemetery is a style of landscape architecture featuring winding, tree-lined roadways. While our roadways wind, they are not tree-lined anymore, and the Cemetery has begun a program to remedy that situation.

In support of the plans of the Cortland Rural Cemetery to restore the historic appearance of the Cemetery, the Cortland Rural Cemetery began soliciting donations to purchase trees to replace those lost over the years to storms and old age. The trees will be planted in places where trees formerly existed in unsold lots reserved for trees and in walkways where appropriate. This tree program is not designed to

benefit a particular lot owner, but instead to add grace and beauty to the entire Cemetery, so trees are not being sold to be placed on family lots.

Each tree will bear an identifying tag which will note the species of tree, the date planted, and the name of the donor who actually purchased the tree.

Larger scale shade trees such as oaks, maples and lindens will be used in larger sections and smaller scale ornamental trees such as crabapples, hawthorns, spruces and firs will be used in section where space and size are limiting factors. The spruces and firs will also be used in areas where the view of winter foliage from the surrounding roads

is an important attribute.

Thanks to your very generous donations, the Cemetery has twenty-four new trees planted to date including White Oaks, Red Oaks, Crimson King Maples, Honey Locusts, Sweet Gums and Bradford Pears, White Pine, Balsam Fir, Frazier Fir and Concolor Fir. More trees, of these and other species, still need to be planted, however.

Donations may be made of \$300, which purchases the larger species, or \$250, which purchases the smaller species. Please specify, on your check, that you want your donation to go toward an Annual Tree and forward it to the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation. 🌳



**Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation**

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