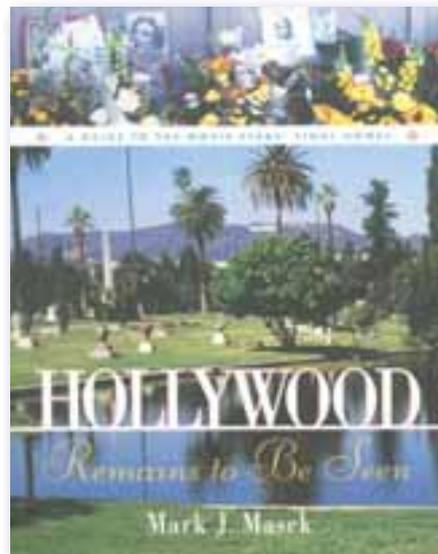


# A Conversation with Mark Masek Author of **Hollywood, Remains to Be Seen**

By Helen Marketti

It is a topic that generates interest whether we admit it or not. There are many among us who are fascinated with cemeteries, the architecture of tombstones, perhaps a thought of how the person lived and how they passed away. It seems to be more magnified if one is in Hollywood. Many cemeteries are the final resting places of famous "residents".

In his book, "Hollywood, Remains to Be Seen" (Cumberland House), Mark Masek has taken



visit California at least once a year when I was in high school and college," explains Mark. "In addition to visiting all of the regular attractions, another thing we did was visit Hollywood cemeteries because it was free admission. Plus it also provided an opportunity to pay respects to the people who were in your living room every week on television. Visiting their gravesites allows

you to show your respect for people who entertained you as you were growing up and their movies were a part of your life. The first celebrity grave I visited was Marilyn Monroe."

Mark thought of writing the book as a helpful guide for readers and fans to know where their favorite icons are resting. "People often feel a connection to a celebrity and want to see where they are resting and pay respects as you would to a close friend or family member," said Mark. "When people visit the sites in Hollywood, they are respectful. There are not any incidents of anyone vandalizing gravesites or anything like that. I think it just depends on the celebrity and what kind of fans



that interest and has let us travel from the comfort of our own home to the places where the rich, the famous, the troubled and the lost have been laid to rest. Throughout his book, we are taken on a journey of where, when and how of our favorite celebrities.

"I'm originally from the Chicago area but would



**THE WILLOUGHBY VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1500 PRESENTS:**

**A FUND-RAISING SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd, 2013**

Spaghetti Dinner starting at 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Followed with Entertainment by

**ABBEY RODEO** Music from the 60's, British Invasion & More!  
8:30 - 11:00pm

Proceeds from the event will benefit "The Littlest Heroes" as well as the V.F.W. National Childrens Home, Cleveland Area VA Hospital Treats and Care Packages for the Troops.

\$18.00/per Person • Due to advance sales, tickets may not be available the night of the event.  
For Tickets Contact: V.F.W. Post 1500 • 38295 Pelton Rd. Willoughby • 440-951-9233

**LOST SHEEP BAND**

**Sat. Feb. 16**  
**Old Mill Winery**  
**7-11pm**

[www.lostsheepband.com](http://www.lostsheepband.com)

**THE COVERT OPERATOR**

Follow us on Facebook

**Sat. Feb. 23**  
**North Coast Lix Concert**  
Sponsored by 107.5 FM FOX  
COVERT OPERATOR @10:45-11:30

**The Cove Nightclub**  
in GOTL along with other local artists featuring original music including Ethan Legeré, Michael Lee Hill and more! Show starts at 9pm.

For more info visit:  
[www.reverbNation.com](http://www.reverbNation.com)

they attract.”

Two of the most visited Hollywood celebrities are Marilyn Monroe and silent screen film star, Rudolph Valentino. Valentino has been gone for 87 years and yet his resting place still draws hundreds of fans each year. “He was one of the earliest of idol worship,” explains Mark. “There were some women who killed



themselves when they learned he had died. There was a reported woman in black who visited his grave every year on the anniversary of his death. He died at the age of 31 so that is how his image is remembered. Marilyn Monroe died when she was 36. She has now been gone longer than she was alive. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing was in 2012. Celebrities who have died young are frozen in time.

We never get to see them age and I think that is what makes many of them so popular even today. People like Elvis Presley, James Dean, Marilyn Monroe and Rudolph Valentino are in the upper echelon of those who died young and we will never see them play character roles or guest spots on television because they didn't live long enough for that to happen.”

The resting places themselves say a lot about a celebrity. We see monuments with pillars, fountains and grandiose landscaping, as is the case with father and son actors, Douglas Fairbanks Sr. and Jr. and singer, Al Jolson. You will also find the basic and the

simple, as is the case with Frank Sinatra and dancing legend, Fred Astaire. “I think how they are laid to rest says something about their character as people and how they wanted to be remembered,” said Mark. “Many celebrities did leave specific instructions with how they wanted things to be. I do know that Al Jolson was directly involved with how he wanted his resting place and for Douglas Fairbanks, his is the

largest and the most expensive for that time.” (Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. passed away at age 56 in 1939.)

As for famous musicians, “Michael Jackson might surpass Marilyn Monroe with visiting fans if they had access to his resting place,” said Mark. “He is resting inside a private mausoleum. Fans still come around and leave mementos outside of the door but no one can pay respects to him directly. Other musicians of popularity out here are Johnny and Dee Dee Ramone of The Ramones. Although Elvis Presley is buried on his property at Graceland, he indeed draws large crowds year round. For many, seeing his resting place is like a religious experience.”

Mark usually receives one of three reactions from people when they learn what he does. “The first response is that people are shocked and horrified. They do not want to hear any more about it because they think it's creepy. Next, there are some people who are vaguely interested but still think it's unusual. The third reaction is that there are always people who are totally interested and want to know as much as they can about celebrities, how they lived, how they passed away and so forth as though it's their “dirty secret” as well and now they have someone to share it with.”

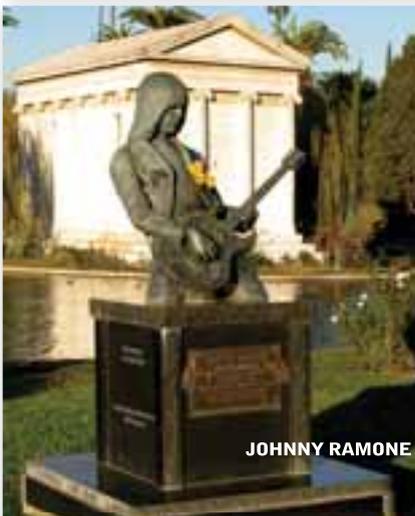
“You would be surprised how many people DO like to visit cemeteries,” said Mark. “Cemeteries are quiet, peaceful, calming and restorative places. They are not scary or evil as some people's misconceptions. As for celebrity gravesites, I think it reminds us of our own mortality and everyone is human. Cemeteries are like libraries. Every grave and

every person has a story whether they are a celebrity or not and they all deserve respect.”

For more information on Mark Masek, his books, current projects and more, please visit: [www.cemeteryguide.com](http://www.cemeteryguide.com) You may also find, “Hollywood Remains to Be Seen” on Facebook.



DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS



JOHNNY RAMONE



AL JOLSON

EVERGREEN

Acoustic Classic & Folk Rock

**VALENTINE'S DAY!**  
**Thur. Feb. 14**  
 Acoustic Music at Old Mill Winery 6-8pm  
**Sat. Feb. 16**  
 Deer's Leap Winery 7-10pm  
**Sun. Feb. 17**  
 Mitch Larson of Evergreen Hosts Open Mic Night at Old Mill Winery 4:30-7:30pm  
**Fri. Feb. 22**  
 CKs Lounge Quail Hollow 8pm-midnight

Mitch 216-513-0529  
 Jennifer 440-463-3951

For future shows and booking opportunities visit [www.facebook.com/evergreen.acoustic.music](http://www.facebook.com/evergreen.acoustic.music)

## Jim Ales

**Call me at (440) 417-2475**  
 or find me on Facebook

- **Fri. Feb. 8, 8-11**  
East West Brew
- **Tues. Feb. 12, 6:30 - 9:30**  
Grand River Manor • Wing Nite
- **Tues. Feb. 19, 6:30 - 9:30**  
Grand River Manor • Wing Nite
- **Thurs. Feb. 21, 7:00 - 10:00**  
Pickled Pepper • Open Mic