

The Dead Beat

The Caregiver's Soapbox



Dedicated to providing information about the people and places involved in the funeral industry.

Late Fall, 2007

www.thedead-beat.com

Volume 8 Issue 4



Stepping Stones

By Jason Ryan Engler

Cemetery: the very word can strike fear and awe in those who have ever had any experience or dealings with them. Anyone who has ever visited a cemetery generally leaves feeling one, or both, of these emotions.

Cemetery is from the Greek etymology *koimEtErion*, which literally means "sleeping chamber" or "burial place." Cemeteries are often considered places of peace: it has always been conveyed that they are places of rest and serenity. Cemetery and Memorial Park owners, doyen, and founders have almost always expressed this throughout the somewhat recent history of their existence.

But it seems that we, as a society, have started to discredit the need and purpose of cemeteries. See, they aren't just places of rest for the dead—they are stepping stones into our past.

Many people ask me how I became interested in a career such as funeral service at such an early age. My response is always the same: Cemeteries. One summer, my step-mom was researching family history for membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and we literally spent the entire summer traveling the state of Texas going through cemeteries. Obviously, that had an impact on me.

But even before that, my grandfather used to take me to our family's graves at San Geronimo Cemetery in Sequin, Texas. I very vividly remember seeing my great grandmother's stone, and reading the words, "Ruhe in Frieden" - German for "Rest in Peace." I remember as he told me stories of family members whose graves we were visiting, and where they fit in our family history. It was there that I first learned of my family—who they were, what they did to thrive and ultimately, where I came from. These stones I saw were more than just

places of record for future generations, they were almost like portals into the past—windows that opened up conversation and stirred the heart and sparked the memory.

I was thinking just recently, while visiting with a family as they prearranged for the imminent death of a loved one, and explaining to them the benefits of these stepping stones. Al-



though I am a major advocate of cremation, it is my opinion that there should always be a stepping stone of some sort. It is very important for these touchstones to be available for generations to come.

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Other Articles in this Issue



Sheriff Oliver "Glenn" Boyer and Todd Mahn, Mahn Funeral Homes
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Pictured from left to right are : Felix Gonzales, Jose Moreno, Priscilla Kastner, Dr. Francisco E. Solis and Michael Garcia
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Roland and his 100 yr-old pulpit
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Those Holidays By Ken Doka

"Everyone is so solicitous over the holidays. 'How are you doing? It must be tough since Bill died.' I do appreciate their concern. The truth is that I always enjoyed the holidays. I do even now. The busyness helps...."

"I so enjoy the grandchildren's holiday concerts. I miss Bill greatly but no more now than before. At least now I'm less lonely."

Emma's comment on the holidays reminds us of an important point. Grief is a highly individual process. Of ten we hear that the holidays can be one of the most difficult times in our journey with grief. We expect to be troubled.

For many of us, that is certainly true. The holidays are often centering moments in our lives—full of memories. We remember the Christmas that we received that special gift, the Chanukah when Jesse proposed, and the Thanksgiving that the turkey was ruined. In such a time of reminiscence, it is natural to miss the person who died. As families gather around the table, it is easy to grieve those who are no longer there.

There are other complicating factors as well. There are so many reminders of our loss. Television specials and movies celebrate families, stressing reunions and reconciliations. These warm family shows and movies accentuate our loss. Cards from distant acquaintances may still be addressed to the person who died. As we shop, we may be reminded of a past gift from the one who died or think that this would be an ideal gift were this person still alive.

The holidays, too, can be a stressful

time—full of so many tasks. When grief depletes our energy, this can even be more worrying. The cold and dark that exists in many areas also may not help. For some, the lack of sunlight may contribute to sadness and the cold may make us more home-bound and alone.

For others of us, like Emma, the holidays can be a better time. The endless stream of holiday activities may divert us from grief. Opportunities to get together with family can ease a sense of loneliness. The sharing of memories and reminiscences that naturally occur during the holidays can comfort. For Emma, the stories shared made her feel closer to Bill and reassured her that their children and grandchildren would always remember him. That was very comforting.

The point is that there is no one, single way to experience the holidays. Emma was troubled precisely because she felt guilty that she was doing so well when everyone around her felt that this should be difficult. Others of us may feel troubled that we are doing poorly—bringing gloom to all those around us. Finally others of us may feel we are on an emotional roller coaster, doing well one moment as we experience some of the holidays, plunging down the next as our grief intrudes.

As in other areas of grief, we face the holidays with differing emotions and expectations. Our journeys

through grief are as distinct and individual as we are.

Reprinted from Hospice Foundation of America **Journeys**. **Journeys** is published monthly by the Hospice Foundation of America, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20009—www.hospicefoundation.org., 1-800-854-3402. Annual subscription-\$12.00.

Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., is a Professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle. Dr. Doka's books include: **Disenfranchised Grief; Living with Life Threatening Illness; Living with Grief: After Sudden Loss; Death and Spirituality; Living With Grief: When Illness is Prolonged; Living with Grief: Who We Are, How We Grieve; AIDS, Fear & Society; Aging and Developmental Disabilities; and Children Mourning, Mourning Children**. In addition to these books, he has published over 60 articles and chapters. Dr. Doka is the associate editor of the journal **Omega** and editor of **Journeys**, a newsletter of the bereaved. Dr. Doka has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, hospice organizations, as well as businesses, educational and social service agencies. As Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America, he assists in planning, and participates in their annual Teleconference. In 1998, the Association for Death Education and Counseling honored him by presenting him an Award for Outstanding Contributions to the field of death education. In March 1993, he was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Dr. Doka was elected in 1995 to the Board of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and elected Chair in 1997. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran Clergyman.
(And a heck of a nice guy— Editor & Publisher)

Scattering Cremains in a Natural Area

Native Grasses and Flowers Reaching to the Sky

For those with a love for the natural landscape, arrangements have been made with the private owners of **Golden Prairie**, a registered natural landmark, to scatter cremains on their property. In addition to the arrangements, a picture and GPS location of the actual site is included.

Memorialization for cremains scattered at any location is available in our Garden of Remembrance, a cremains burial and scattering garden with a memorial cenotaph.

For information contact:

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Colleagues Lost or Found



(If you would like to find someone in the funeral industry, let us know-

dead_beat99@hotmail.com



Mortuary Muse* *to think or consider deeply; meditate By Lowell

On a slow day I took a mental journey to the new Centergerth Memorial Services and Crematory in Figmentville. Centergerth is a composite of a number of funeral homes I've visited and features some practices borrowed from other industries.

The former location was in an older residential area with no room for expansion. The new location was originally a 12,000 sq. ft. open span retail store with a large parking lot. An empty 3,500 sq. ft. professional building was next door. Centergerth was able to acquire both properties for their new funeral facility. They added an additional 5,000 sq. ft. and connected the two buildings.

At the driveway entrance lighted signs direct you to the business office parking, parking for the Funeral Chapel area A or parking for the Remembrance Theatre area B. Two services can be held and dismissed simultaneously with traffic for

each service separated as they depart their respective exit gate.

The remodeled professional building serves as a walkway through a Mortuary Retail Store that includes a monument shop, casket/urn kiosk with a limited selection and memorial gift shop. There is room to expand the display if the local discount store enters the mortuary retail market. This building has a separate entrance and parking.

A state of the art embalming room and cremation equipment along with an adjacent viewing room and staff lounge are located in the new connecting addition.

The handsome facility with relatively small manicured grounds blends well with the neighborhood without appearing ostentatious. The remodeled 12,000 sq. ft. retail building along with the connecting addition contain the traditional funeral service part of the operation.

Entering the foyer of the main building

you immediately notice the furnishings reflect the Southwestern style of the exterior, but avoid the appearance of extravagance. It is as if you had just walked into a residence that was just a little nicer than the average home in the nearby residential development.

Family members arriving to make funeral arrangements are greeted by a receptionist who summons the funeral director assigned to that particular service. The funeral director will usher the family to the arrangement room they will be using. Three private arrangement rooms surround a central merchandise selection area though merchandise can be viewed by computer kiosk or catalog in each arrangement room. All funeral directors maintain proficiency in product knowledge with

(continued in Lowell's Behind the Back Fence)

(Continued on page 5)

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Flag Presentation to Sheriff



Sheriff Oliver "Glenn" Boyer and Todd Mahn, Mahn Funeral Homes

Todd Mahn, owner of Mahn Funeral Homes presents Sheriff Oliver "Glenn" Boyer of Jefferson County Sheriff's Department a new American Flag and Missouri Flag with post and flag stands for the Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. This gift was for all their assistance over the past years with funerals and Veterans Memorial Services.

Roller-Crouch Funeral Home Batesville, Arkansas



510 E. College St., Batesville, AR

Sent by Mark House, Manager

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The Arizona Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association announces following events in 2008

ACCFA Annual Maintenance Seminar

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Greenwood Memory Lawn Memorial Park
2300 W. Van Buren St. -Phoenix, AZ

Featuring: Hot Dog/Bratwurst Barbeque, Arborist, Discussion on proper usage of cemetery Equipment, lawn mower safety, etc

ACCFA Annual Convention

May 29, 30, 31

Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort—Chandler, Arizona

Featuring: Fun, Information, Business and Continuing Education Credits



Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

(Continued from page 3)

funeral director Helen designated as product specialist* to help families interested in more precise details concerning merchandise. She also looks for new products and tests their application for addition or replacement to current memorialization items.

All licensed funeral directors have either a degree, associate degree or certification in some other field that is supportive of funeral service. Two are psychology majors, one is

working towards an MBA, a bookkeeper and one of the two embalmers has advanced computer skills. Centergerth takes pride in its highly trained staff and provides scheduled accommodations and registration fees for licensure CE. They also pay employees \$20** for every CE or certification course chapter they complete on their own. Centergerth believes that highly trained and motivated employees who understand value over price ensures a satisfied and loyal cli-

ent base. This in turn reflects increased profitability for the firm.

The Remembrance Theatre (area B) is still evolving. The initial planning was for two virtually identical funeral chapels. After considering the growing trend for contemporary services by more families and learning that a regional hotel chain was going to solicit funeral receptions, it was decided to create the multipurpose Remembrance Theatre. Movable seating and chapel equipment allow for a religious setting. Other features such as an adjacent garden patio, removable stage and a small kitchen area available for catering services bring great flexibility. Both the Chapel and the Remembrance Theatre are equipped with the now relatively common video equipment and both areas can open into a common exit hall for overflow crowds. Two large staterooms with folding dividers and four small staterooms serve both the Chapel and the Remembrance Theatre.

Katherine (Kathi) the funeral director in charge told us that Centergerth is pleased with the way the plans had worked out, but there were still some surprised in the market area. Walk-in business for minimal disposal service which is handled out of the remodeled professional building was increasing in volume faster than anticipated. On the bright side these same clients were responding to the memorialization merchandise well. She said they try to maintain cremation services and immediate burials as close to each other in pricing as they can and in some instances burial is less expensive.

Traditional chapel or church services continue to account for about half of their business with contemporary services at about 25 % and growing. Kathi and Mort the funeral director/accountant said they are concerned about pricing on contemporary services. These services usually take up about two more days of sheltering and additional staff which really isn't accounted for in the Basic Nondeclinable Charges on the GPL.

(Continued on page 19)

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After-Thoughts- "Seasons of Life and Grief"

By Joanne Howard

As I was on my walk the other day, I asked God for some inspiration of what to share with you and then I heard geese honking on a pond nearby. God seemed to direct my thoughts to the seasons and the geese reminded me of the beginning of fall. Then I considered this in relation to the grief journey and how it followed along similar lines.

First, I considered how all of our lives flow through the seasons. We have spring with its new beginnings. In our lives we start with our birth and then continue in the childhood years with many new experiences. In the plant world the trees have their rebirth with the buds sprouting. In our grief process our spring is the initial shock of our loss, the start of our pain and adjustment to life without our loved one.

As spring moves into summer, the leaves develop and grow. They get more light and warmer temperatures. In our lives, the summer is the experiences we have as adults. We grow in knowledge with our marriage, children and developing careers. In our grief journey the support of our family and friends allows us to grow in our adjustment to life without our loved one.

Fall comes with all of its changes. It's

about the winding down, moving on, and preparing for winter. The leaves are turning from the green to the orange, yellow and brown and become ready to be blown off the trees. In our lives we also are winding down with retirement and health problems, just like the leaves turning color and falling. In the grief journey we also are shedding the brunt of our unbearable pain in preparation for the adjustment without our lost loved one.

In the season of winter many plants finish their cycle whether they die or become dormant. In our lives we also finish our phase of life with an ending. In grief we see an end to the overwhelming pain associated with our loss, but everyone's feelings are unique and the degree of acceptance differs as with mild versus hard winters. But we make it to that point of adjustment that allows us to continue with our lives.

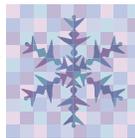
The seasons do not just have one cycle, but continue over and over again. So goes the grief journey. As the next year comes after our loss, we could have a spring where we are able to treasure our memories and grow comfortable with them or we could turn back to the sharp

pain again.

Finally our seasons of life and grief will end with our death. We will meet our loved ones again and experience the wonderful feelings that we feel when looking at the first sprouting of spring-time flowers, the bountiful harvest of those tomato plants we grew during summer, the magnificence of the fall colors displayed on the trees and the beauty in a new fallen snow with a glistening splendor that takes your breath away.

The seasons of plants, life and grief have many ups and downs, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Life is a journey that we all must travel our own way. With the holidays upon us we will meet the challenges of life with joy in our hearts for those with us and not with us. May you remember your loved ones with grateful hearts that God let them be in your lives and add to your seasons of life.

About the author: Joanne Howard is the editor of **The Dead Beat**. She has been a licensed funeral director since 1992 with Pugh Funeral Home in Golden City, MO and also the aftercare coordinator. Much of her writing in this column is influenced by her loss of her two daughters Laura at age 10 in 1997 and Amy at age 19 in 2003. Any comments or questions can be directed to 417-537-4412, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748 or email Joanne@thedeat-beat.com.



Pugh Funeral Home—Golden City, Missouri 16th Annual Remembrance Afternoon— November 17, 2007



Above: Wreaths of Remembrance
Side: Joanne Howard



Left: Angel Leaf Tree
Right: Attendees
Below: Angel Leaf Close-up



Above: Lowell Pugh Reading
Names Betty Lighting Candles
Side: Food Shared with fellowship



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Remodeled and Expanded Funeral Home



Left to Right: Gary Stumpff, Cotton Reavis, Shirley Stumpff, Darla Stumpff, Rick Stumpff, Seated at the Grand Piano John Cunningham

For more than 100 years the southwest corner of Commerce and Rose has been used to serve people and to glorify God as the Presbyterian Church property. Due to the fire late last year the church decided not to rebuild and sold the property to the Stumpff family.

In May, 2007 groundbreaking ceremonies were held on the property for a new chapel connecting the Manlove-Stumpff Funeral Home. It is the hope of the Stumpff family that the use of the property will continue to be a glory to God as it is used to serve families during their time of loss.

On Saturday September 15 at 1:00 p.m. a ribbon cutting ceremony was held. Rick and Darla Stumpff, owners of the funeral homes started the ceremony off with a brief statement on the ground which the new chapel was standing and prayed God's blessing would be on the new facility and service offered through it. Mayor Collin Brannan did the actual ribbon cutting in the presence of the Crane Area Chamber of Commerce and others who gathered for the occasion.

Coffee, snacks of meat, cheese, fruit and vegetables as well as desserts were served to those attending and each was given a tour of the more than 5,000 sq. ft which provides space for caskets, vault and urns, display area. Different guests took turns playing the white grand piano which sits in the front of the 250 seat chapel with its 22 foot cathedral ceilings. Everyone enjoyed the picture video of the construction since many of the workers were local people.

The Stumpff family would like to thank all that attended and invite anyone unable to attend to come by and view the new facility. Gary & Shirley or Cotton will be happy to show you around.

Amy Howard Art Gallery



By Amy Howard

The editor's daughter Amy, who was mentioned in our previous issues, was quite the artist and we've decided to display some of her artwork every issue in her memory.

Sunday School Stories

Did Noah Fish? A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

Higher Power- A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power, can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

The Lord is My Shepherd-A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages-Psalm 23. She gave her youngsters a month. Little Bobby was excited about the task but had difficulty and as he stepped up to the microphone he proudly said, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

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San Antonio College Dept. of Mortuary Science Attends NFDA Convention in Las Vegas

By Priscilla Kastner



Pictured from left to right are : Felix Gonzales, Jose Moreno, Priscilla Kastner, Dr. Francisco E. Solis and Michael Garcia

San Antonio College's Department of Mortuary Science was represented at the National Funeral Directors Association Convention & Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 7 through October 9, 2007.

Felix Gonzales and Dr. Francisco E. Solis, faculty at San Antonio College's Mortuary Science Program and Jaime Oquendo, ALPAR, Medellin, Columbia were the featured speakers at the Seminar-Session #34 titled, "Latino Families: First Call to Aftercare." For example, a family calls and wants a Latino funeral. Do funeral directors know what to do? Cultural differences between the Latino family in America and Columbia, the variety of Latino burial traditions and marketing trends were discussed. Jose L. Moreno, also a member of the faculty in the Mortuary Science Department provided technical support.

There were many seminars, workshops, all the latest products available to funeral professionals as well as entertainment and a lot of scrumptious food.

Attending the convention were faculty Dr. Francisco E. Solis, Felix Gonzales, Jose L. Moreno, Michael Garcia (Mortuary Science Club Treasurer), Priscilla Kastner (Mortuary Science Club Vice-President) and Joseph Conde (Student).

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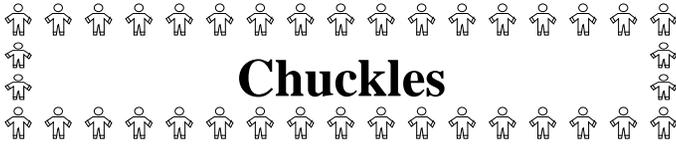
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Chuckles

Editor Note: My apologies if anyone has been offended by jokes in this column

Rib Ticklers:

An old miner, driving an efficiency expert through the snow and cold, spread a buffalo lap robe over their knees. Said the efficiency expert, "You should turn the hair inside. It's warmer with the fur next to the body." The miner obeyed while hiding a chuckle. "What are you laughing at?" asked the expert. "I was just thinking of that poor buffalo," replied the miner. "What a fool he was all of his life not to know a simple thing like that."



"Willy, darling, what's the matter?" "The hammer fell on Daddy's foot," sobbed Willy. "Why, honey, that is nothing to cry about." "I didn't cry," whimpered Willy. "I laughed."



"For months," said the bridge-loving club woman, "I couldn't imagine where my husband spent his evenings." "And then what happened?" breathlessly, asked her friend. "Well," she said, "one evening I went home and there he was."

Henry: What would you do, dear, if I should die?

Mrs. Peck: I should go nearly crazy.

Henry: Would you marry again?

Mrs. Peck: I said nearly crazy.

Wife: Let's have some fun this evening.

Husband: Okay, but leave the light on in the hallway, just in case you get home before I do.

Male Blonde Joke

At last, a male blonde joke...go ahead ladies have a good laugh! LOL A Sheriff in a small Texas town walks out in the street and sees a blonde cowboy coming down the walk with nothing on but his cowboy hat, gun and his boots. So the sheriff arrests him for indecent exposure. As he is locking him up he asks, "Why in the world are you dressed like this, Cowboy?" "Well, it's like this Sheriff...I was in a bar down the road and this pretty little redhead asks me to go out to her motor home with her...and I did. We go inside and she pulls off her top and asks me to pull off my shirt, so I did. Then she pulls off her skirt and asks me to pull off my pants, so I did. Then she pulls off her panties and asks me to pull off my shorts... So I did. Then she gets on the bed and looks at me kind of funny and says, "Now go to town cowboy..." So here I am.



Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Witness: No.

Attorney: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Attorney: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

Comments

Enjoy The Dead Beat very much. Look forward to reading every issue.

Mark House, Manager, Roller-Crouch Funeral Home, Batesville, Arkansas

Enjoy your newsletter and your sense of humor. Keep up the good work. ... I look forward to the next issue... of The Dead Beat... which certainly is **Up Beat!!!**

Evelyn J. Dulan, Bowser Johnson Funeral Chapel, Topeka, Kansas

On behalf of Jack, the canine employee and successor to the Boston Terrier tradition of Westcott Funeral Home, thank you for your kind mention. I have debated about putting Jake in the employee line-up on the website and need to update this page and will add him there. Give me a month and your idea will be acted on. Keep up the good work....

Steve Palmer, Westcott Funeral Home, Cottonwood, AZ

Chuckles (cont.)

Cold Winter

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter." the Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winter ever." "How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Submitted by **Floyd L. Greenwood, Greenwood-Roberts Funeral Homes.**

How The Fight Started

I rear-ended a car this morning. So there we are alongside the road and slowly the driver gets out of the car...and you know how you just get-sooo-stressed and life-stuff seems to get funny? Yeah, well, I could NOT believe it... he was a DWARF! He storms over to my car, looks up at me and says, "I AM NOT HAPPY!" So, I look down at him and say, "Well, which one are you then?" and that's when the fight started.

An avid golfer fought with his wife for years about the amount of time and money he spent away from home on golf. One day he died suddenly while on the back nine at his club. At the funeral home the director asked what the widow would like in his obituary, to which she replied: My husband liked to play the game, but now he's in a heap. My revenge for him never being home: "Ping clubs for sale—cheap!"



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Roland and his
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Stepping Stones (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Now let me make myself a little clearer. The final resting place can be a family plot, a columbarium niche, a mausoleum crypt—whatever is appropriate for a particular family, the result is always the same: Permanent Memorialization—touchstones that leave a *physical* legacy for future generations. Even if a family chooses cremation there needs to be a final resting place to have the closure in the grieving process. Part of this closure is memorialization. Many times, there is a sort of serenity for a family to see a loved one's name and dates of birth and death permanently inscribed, carved into a block of granite or marble.

Even, and especially when a family chooses to scatter a loved one's cremated remains, we should always encourage some type of permanent memorial. Something that is tangible, that they can touch and feel, not just emotionally and spiritually, but physically.

I always enjoyed the trips with my grandpa, or other family members, and finding out where I came from. Who my family and ancestors were and are and it was not just a thought of "this is where they rest." It was, "this is where the memories are!"

This is a very important heritage that we must pass on to our future generations. Many

(Continued on page 15)

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues



INDUSTRY ASSOCIATES

Barbara Jo "BJ" Roberts, died Nov. 6, 2007. She was a sales representative of Vera Lee Garment Company, Ft. Worth, Texas. Services were directed by Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home, Odessa, Texas.

IOWA

Lowell D. Jones, 87, died July 13, 2007. Mr. Jones formerly owned Barker Funeral Home in Alta.



Howard Shelly, 91, died September 8 in Manchester. Mr. Shelly started working with his father in the funeral home in the late 1930's and returned after serving with the Navy in WWII. He was active in community affairs, an avid golfer and world traveler after he retired from the funeral home about 1992. The newspaper summed his life up with the headline, "Funeral Director Remembered for His Compassion." His son, Ted Shelly is the last of the family members in funeral service. Services were directed by Shelly Funeral Home of Manchester.

Marian Frances Rahe Teahen, 92, of Cedar Rapids, died July 27. She was the former owner of Teahen Funeral home in Cedar Rapids. Her son Peter and granddaughter Beth, licensed funeral directors, continue the tradition of the family funeral home.

KANSAS



Kenny R. Lanman, Sr., 80, died October 6. After graduating from the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science he worked at the Stiles Funeral Home in Alva, Midwest City Funeral Home in Oklahoma City, George Carson & Son in Kansas City and Wentworth Mortuary in Carmen. In 1975 he purchased the Cordray Funeral Home in Helena and eventually funeral homes in Cherokee, Okeene and Kiowa, Kansas. Kenny also operated ambulance services until 1966. Memberships included OKFDA, NFDA, and OKEMTA. He also held Oklahoma and Missouri funeral director and embalmer licenses. Services were directed by Lanman Funeral Home in Helena.

MISSOURI

Larry R. Tillery, 68, of Bolivar, died November 9. A 1960 graduate of John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science, he owned Tillery Funeral Home in Humansville from 1963 to 1973. Services directed by Murray Funeral Home, Bolivar.

OKLAHOMA



W. Neal Agent, Jr., 66, of Sallisaw, died October 6. Mr. Agent worked, owned and operated for over 50 years -Agent Funeral Home in Sallisaw. He was active in the affairs of the community, including Immanuel Baptist Church, the Sallisaw Public Schools and civic organizations. He loved spending time with his family at Lake Tenkiller, especially enjoying time with his grandchildren. Services were directed by the Agent Funeral Home in Sallisaw .

TEXAS

Robert Hill Brewer, Jr., died October 6. Mr. Brewer was a past member of the TFDA Board of Directors. He was the former funeral director of Brewer Funeral Chapel, now Sparkman/Hillcrest, and had been a Funeral Director of the Year recipient. Services were directed by Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home, Dallas.

Charles H. Cole, Jr. died November 14. Mr. Cole was the former owner of the Amsler funeral home and Cole Funeral home in McGregor. Services were directed by Cole Funeral Home of McGregor.

Garland Davis, manager of Lloyd James Funeral Home, Tyler, died November 2. Services were directed by Lloyd James Funeral Home, Tyler.

James O. "Jimmy" Duddlesten, past owner of Duddlesten Funeral Home died September 27. He has also served on the State Board of Morticians. Services were conducted by the Duddlesten Funeral Home, Raymondville.

Leonard Gabriel, Sr., died October 4. He was the father of Leonard Gabriel, Jr., and father-in-law of Francine H. Gabriel who are the owners of Gabriel Funeral Home, Inc. in Port Arthur. Services were directed by Gabriel Funeral Home Chapel.

Lidge P. Knesek, a former partner of Knesek and Sons Funeral Home, Wallis, died November 4. services were directed by Knesek and Sons Funeral Chapel in Wallis.

James V. Plowman, died October 15. Mr. Plowman was the owner of Galbreath-Pickard Funeral Chapel in Weatherford and the father of James R. Plowman of Weatherford. Services were directed by Galbreath-Pickard Funeral Chapel.

L.B. Rice, father-in-law to Steve Fairchild died October 18. He was employed at Eastgate Funeral Home in Garland. Services were directed by Gabriels Funeral Chapel in Georgetown.

Eleanor Swearingen, died October 23. she was the wife of William T. "Bill" Swearingen, Executive Director of Gipson Funeral Home, Lufkin. Services were directed by Gipson Funeral Home.

Thomas Lee (Tom) Welch, owner/operator of Avalon Mortuary Service of Tyler, died November 4. Services were directed by Light House Professional Services of Tyler.

If you know of a fellow funeral service colleague that has died that we have not included, please send the information and picture if available (The Dead Beat, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748) or fax it to us (417-537-4797) or E-Mail to Joanne@thedead-beat.com

Stepping Stones (Cont.)

(Continued from page 13)

stories and thoughts have been shared while visiting the Engler Family plot at San Geronimo Cemetery in Seguin, Texas. And even though it is my choice to be cremated, my cremated remains will one day rest there as well. Then in years to come my children, grandchildren and all my progeny will be afforded the opportunity to return there and honor my memory and pay homage to the legacy I've left.



And in this place of peace, I myself can "Ruhe in Frieden."

Jason Ryan Engler is a native of South Central Texas and resides in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is a Funeral Director and Cremationist and fervently studies cremation and its history. He can be reached via email at acremationist@hotmail.com



"The Undertaking" - PBS' Frontline (Comment by Lowell)

"The Undertaking," PBS' Frontline story about Lynch and Sons Funeral Home captured the compassionate care given to the grieving families as their funeral stories unfolded. One of the funeral consultant/merchandise sellers exclaimed in his online newsletter, "...all I saw at the visitation was a casket and flowers. It made me want to opt for direct cremation all that much more." A rather shallow observation, I think, and hardly the venue to showcase an array of "Grief Stuff" for sale.

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Bereavement By Paul Callahan

The last week my love was ill,
Making my spouse so weak.
Leaving me responsibly to fill
I still remember that week.

I shared the pain and suffering,
Giving medication without gain
The scream of the siren rushing,
A fading life to ER again.

A visit to the funeral home made in grief,
On a day that lasted so very long.
Although night came like a thief
Before arrangements were done.

Relatives arrived by airplanes
Bringing support sorely needed.
A sister helped to organize plans
The many funeral guests to feed.

Friends and neighbors became helpers
Supplying food both hot and cold.
After dinner opportunity for mourners,
Each to share a memory they hold.

The minister made kind remarks
About unselfish service to others.
Giving tribute and high marks
With prayer for me and others.

The first day spent
Alone with only my pet.

The first meal prepared to eat
At a table set with only one seat.

The first night lying fully awake
Sleep or even rest unable to take.
Walking a mile in the dark of eve
Left completely alone to grieve.

Went to an event my spouse would have enjoyed.
Heard a new song we would have employed.
Saw old friends, from when our love was new.
Looked at family photos with a teary-eyed view.

Washed antique dishes we took pride in collecting.
Had dinner at a restaurant we'd been using.
Went to a party like one my spouse hosted.
Took a vacation our traveling together echoed.

A friend encouraged grief counseling,
I learned from counseling to reconcile.
Losing a mate is not the end of the aisle.
And meet others with the same feeling.

Slowly the vale of darkness faded away
Like the coming of early morning.
Slowly the curtain of mourning
Opened to the joyous sunshine of a new day.

In sharing my grief with others
Rest and sleep returned.
Peace and joy regained,

As I begin to break bread with others.

Paul Callahan, now retired, was the proprietor of Statewide Mortuary Service for twenty-three years. He served a mortuary transportation need throughout the southwest from a base in Phoenix, Arizona. He first began to write at age 76 and has written more than one hundred poems.

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1999 Cadillac Eureka 6-Dr	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	39,000 mi
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Bring Funeral Home, Inc. Recipient of 2007 NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award

Brookfield, Wis—Bring Funeral Home, Inc., Tucson, Arizona is a recipient of the 2007 National Funeral Directors Association's (NFDA) Pursuit of Excellence Award, placing them among the top two percent of funeral homes nationwide. This elite group of professionals is dedicated to maintaining a positive image for funeral service by consistently providing outstanding service to families, ongoing education to staff and adherence to only the highest ethical and professional standards.

"The Pursuit of Excellence program inspires funeral homes to continually evaluate and improve their level of service to families and communities," said NFSA Chief Executive Officer Christine Pepper, CAE. "These firms exceed expectations in all facets of funeral service and are true leaders within their profession."

Achieving a Pursuit of Excellence Award requires that a funeral home must meet strict quality service criteria that include: compliance with state and federal regulations; continuing education and staff development; family outreach and support; community service and education; professional association service and participation; and marketing, advertising and public relations.

NFDA is the leading funeral service association, serving 19,500 individual members who represent more than 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and other countries. From its headquarters in Brookfield, Wisconsin and its Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C. NFDA provides advocacy, education, information, products, programs and services to help members enhance the quality of service to families. For more information, visit www.nfda.org.

Casket in a classroom????

On one of the funeral news information websites there was an interesting reference to a news story in Arizona. In order to teach the high school students the realities of death, a mortuary manager takes a casket and body bag into high school classes. As the story mentioned, "this is not a career day presentation about the funeral business. He's trying to change risky behaviors among teens."

Who was the manager trying to make his point? —Eddie Lopez, of Greer-Wilson Funeral Home in west Phoenix. He was "shocked by the high number of young bodies that arrive at his mortuary. He says, 'the bulk of my business is from the ages of 14 to 29-year old Hispanic males.'"

He is trying to "give students a lesson in the reality of death and dangerous behaviors that kill too many young people.

(Interesting and powerful mission he's attempting.)

The Laws

The Law of Economics: The amount needed for the present emergency is always in direct proportion to the amount you had saved for a vacation.

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act

Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Law of the Telephone: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Theater: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Law of Rugs/Carpets: The chances of an open-face jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug

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Volume: Eight

Number: Four

The Dead Beat is published bi-monthly. Editorial and business offices are located at 400 Chestnut, Golden City, MO 64748. Phone (800) 575-2611

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Cadillac Attends the 3rd Annual LCT Eastern Conference

Detroit, MI, September 24—Cadillac displayed its professional vehicle lineup at the 3rd annual LCT (Limousine & Chauffeured Transportation) Eastern Conference for the limousine and chauffeured transportation industry. Held on September 9th and 10th at the Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino in Uncasville, CT this two day regional conference, endorsed by the national Limousine Association and New England Livery Association, featured an exposition hall, educational workshops and a variety of presentations from seasoned industry professionals. The main attraction however was the exposition hall where numerous companies had the opportunity to display and demonstrate their products and services.

Cadillac's exhibit showcased a beautifully appointed 2008 DTS livery sedan and a lavishly chromed Escalade ESV for attendees to experience and consider. One DTS interior enhancement that caught the eye of several livery professionals was the new Dark Babinga wood trim accents that create a clean, sculpted contemporary appearance for the most discerning customers. The new interior feature is standard on nearly all MY2008 DTS professional vehicles. Vehicles ordered with Midnight Blue interior will continue using the Medium Ash Burl wood trim accents.

For the Escalade ESV, livery professionals can now opt for either all-wheel drive or new for 2008, two-wheel drive. Additionally, later in the 2008 calendar year, Cadillac will introduce a new model to the Escalade portfolio, the Escalade Hybrid. This technologically advanced vehicle will feature General Motors' two-mode hybrid propulsion system combining gas and electric engines for significant fuel economy improvements, while maintaining the traditional capabilities of a full-size SUV.

Cadillac is committed to offering the most advanced premium luxury vehicles for the limousine and chauffeured transportation industry and thanks all attendees that visited the Cadillac exhibit.

Further information on Cadillac professional vehicle products can be found at www.provehicles.cadillac.com.

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New Cadillac Master Coachbuilder

Detroit, MI, October 19—Cadillac Professional Vehicle Program Headquarters is pleased to announce the addition of Bennett Funeral Coaches to the Cadillac Master Coachbuilder (CMC) Program. Based in Grand Rapids, MI, Bennett Funeral Coaches prides itself in creating contemporary styled, quality built professional vehicles for the funeral industry. Their goal is to parallel Cadillac's breakthrough designs while maintaining the high quality and safety standards associated with all Cadillac vehicles. For additional information about Bennett Funeral Coaches or to view their product lineup, please visit www.hearse.com.

**Mortuary Muse/Behind Back Fence
(Cont.)**

The increased flexibility of these serves without cost recovery may be a problem.

Many vendors are offering some great items for personalization and increased profitability. Kathi says the staff has an emotional block at presenting funeral service value in the same price range—more than \$27,000*** —of a modern day wedding. “They walk a fine line,” replied Mort, “between providing a dignified personalized service for fair value and loading the Statement of Funeral Goods and Services with every imaginable grief memento available.”

Centergerth is moving into some uncharted territory. A follow-up visit in a couple of years should prove interesting.

++++
Footnote references:

*-A term borrowed from the auto industry from an Auto Show Spokesperson.

**- Wieder’s PRO (hardware employee training) Reported in Hardware Retailer, Sept/Oct.2007

***-Average Wedding Costs—New York Times News Service article in Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 11/4/07

About the Author:

Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 103-year-old family funeral home. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

Personalized Music for Memorial Services

In this age of personalized memorial services, here are some occupation- and hobby-specific hymns and songs that might be appropriate for the musician to play:

- Candy Maker- “Sweet The Moments, Rich In Blessing”
- Jeweler— “More Precious Than Silver”
- Urologist— “Pass It On”
- Fisherman— “Shall We Gather At The River”
- Convict— “I Surrender All”
- Meteorologist— “Showers of Blessing” “Till the Storm Passes By”
- Florist— “Consider the Lilies”
- Author— “I Love to Tell The Story” “When I Can Read My Title Clear”
- Hunter— “As The Deer”
- EMT— “Revive Us Again”
- District Attorney—”Were You There?”
- Proctologist or author of “Mortuary Muse” - “Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee”
- Bill Collector— “Jesus Paid It All”
- Clock Maker— “Moment By Moment”
- Construction Worker— “How Firm A Foundation”
- Ditch (grave) Digger— “Higher Ground” “There’s Room for You Too”
- Mental Health Worker— “Come, All Christians, Be Committed”
- Preacher— “Like A Mighty Gust of Wind”
- Artist—”Draw Me Nearer”
- Procrastinator— “Maybe Tomorrow”
- Optometrist— “Open My Eyes That I May See”
- Weight Trainer— “Love Lifted Me”
- Funeral Director— “Bring Them In”
- Medical Examiner— “De-liver Me, O Lord”
- Librarian— “There Is A Place of Quiet Rest”
- Embalmer— “Preserve Me, O Lord”

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Pierre Gorio, chief executive officer and president said his company’s polyethylene double-wall vault infused with PE structure foam has been developed over the last nine years and has slowly been gaining acceptance the last year and a half. When compared to its concrete rival, which has been used for many years, it offers many advantages, such as lower cost, lighter weight and more durability.

McLeansville, N.C.-based Gorio has signed an agreement with Sherman

McKinniss, vice chairman of the board of Rotonics Manufacturing, Inc, of Garden, California to begin production of the vaults in Illinois, California and Texas.

The plastic burial vault idea according to Gorio, dates back many years. His parents, Pete and Carolyn Gorio, started a concrete business in 1970 and later in the mid-1970s obtained a Wilbert Burial Vault Co. franchise. However, after 29 years, they retired, selling the business.

Pete purchased a machine that was wasting away in a field in Texas, brought it to North Carolina, refurbished it and started working on a patented process to make plastic burial vaults.

“I owe a lot to my father—he’s the visionary,” Pierre Gorio said.

Gorio said the company has re-



searched the new vault since 1995 and has been selling it for the past three years.

He said the company can produce up to 5,000 vaults a year, and vaults now provide about 60 percent of Gorio’s business.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter in 2007, Gorio Corporation will begin manufacturing the “Eonian” and “Endurance” burial vaults in Illinois, Texas and California.

To learn more about the Next Generation Burial Vault visit www.goriocorp.com or call 888-464-6742.

See advertisement below.

Information collected from *Plastics News*, Aug. 13, 2007 article by Frank Antosiewicz and *Yellow*

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Mike Forbes Named General Manager at Suhor Industries' Parsons, KS Plant



Mike Forbes

Mike Forbes has been named General Manager of Suhor Industries' Parsons, Kansas plant. His responsibilities included the day-to-day operation of that facility and burial vault marketing in the area it services' as well as sales management for the SI Veterans Memorials division, eight SI Memorials retail stores in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and SI Memorials wholesale sales staff.

The Parsons location manufactures concrete burial vaults, pre-cast concrete products and granite monuments and is SI's largest plant with 65 employees.

Forbes began his funeral service career in 1989 and has been with the SI organization since 2000.

Information provided by Yellow Book News, October, 2007

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Wilson & Son sold to Topeka Company

According to **KC Community News** Wilson & Son Funeral Home, which has locations in Paola and Louisburg, Kansas, has been purchased by the Penwell-Gabel family of funeral homes based in Topeka.

Mark Goebel and Cindy Hauer, funeral directors will be staying at the Louisburg location which was originally the Runyan Funeral Home. Chad Wilson will remain at the Paola location.

Wilson stated that both Penwell- Gabel and Wilson & Son have had a "long family heritage and offer a high level of personal service. I think the common values they share will help us make a transition that is seamless to the community."

Penwell-Gabel is a family-owned company by Ren and Theresa Newcomer, who live in Topeka. Their company was

founded in 1893 and has locations in Olathe, Independence, Hutchinson, Coffeyville and other locations across eastern Kansas.

According to Wilson & Son's website, its roots date back to Roy E. Wilson in the 1920's. Chuck followed in his father's (Roy) footsteps and Chad continued in his father's (Chuck) footsteps. Michael Johnson and his family joined Chad in 1998. Johnson has purchased a funeral home in his hometown of Stuart, Iowa.

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Paola, KS Location



Louisburg, KS Location

We need some questions for the “Dear Counselor....” column.

Bill Stalter will answer some of our legal questions for educational purposes only. It is **The Dead Beat's** intent to give the readers general information about legal issues, not to provide legal advice. If a reader needs legal advice, he or she should hire an attorney. Reading **The Dead Beat** should not be used as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. When Bill provides legal advice he does so for Stalter Legal Services in Overland Park, Kansas. Bill also provides consulting services through Preneed Resource Consultants, which can be found at www.prenneedresource.com.

Please send your questions to Bill's e-mail or The Dead Beat's and we will get some answers in future issues.

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Pain from Scammer's Crimes Lingers

Pain from Pittsburgh, PA, Celestial Burial Case Company owner Joseph M. Stabile's casket sale scams were widespread and will probably last longer than his jail time. **The Tulsa World**, 10/18/07, reported about depositions an Ada family gave prior to Stabile's 77-month sentencing. He first blamed the delay in delivering the casket the family ordered on airport security. Then he gave them a \$4,000 hot check. Celestial advertised widely in veteran and fraternal organization publications.

When a family had our funeral home order a stainless steel casket from Celestial a few years ago, they sent the casket, but the family was surprised by the \$400 freight bill. Celestial claimed they had licensing agreements with veterans organizations. For a few dollars a family can usually buy a nice logo patch from an organization that funeral directors can attach to any casket.



Thieves Strike Wayne Bose Funeral Home In Waxahachie, Texas

TFDA put out a Fax Alert in October after thieves stole an 18' white trailer with Waxahachie, TX in red letters on both sides. Contents of the trailer included: Refurbished Dodge Embalming Machine in the box; four air trays; four or five combo units; miscellaneous body bags, black, blue tarp type and white institutional; numerous speakers and a sound system; 20 x 20 green cemetery tent and poles; two sets of accordion cemetery chairs and other items.

If anyone tries to sell any of the listed items to you, please contact the Waxahachie Police Dept. at 972-937-9940 or Wayne Boze at 972-923-2700.

“Be Careful Where You Die” From Parade Magazine-10/14/07– submitted by a reader

This was a short piece under the “Intelligence Report” and “Know Your Rights.” It addresses the precarious weight that burial wishes may carry in certain states. It mentioned that in many states “won't automatically honor your last requests.” It will be the next of kin that will ultimately decide what happens. It gave a sampling of some state laws in Missouri, Michigan and Arkansas. It ended with a recommendation to check your state's laws and put your requests in a notarized statement. For a list of laws, go to Parade.com.





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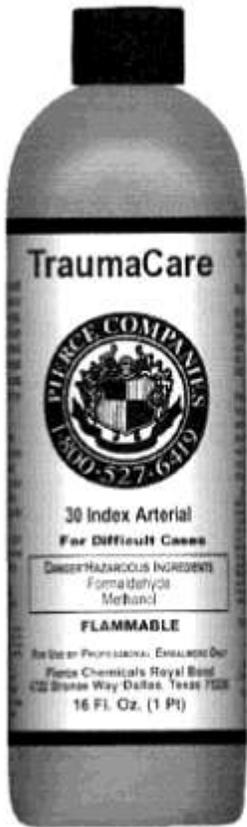
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Tidbits from McNeese Consulting

OSHA

Air quality in the prep room continues to be a key issue. In an attempt to avoid the required formaldehyde monitoring tests, some funeral home in the past opted to use fluid containing gluteraldehyde rather than formaldehyde. OSHA recently published a study that concluded that even if gluteraldehyde levels are less than required by law, the chemical can trigger asthma symptoms. The study also showed significant problems with skin contact. The OSHA action level for formaldehyde is .5 PPM, the action level for gluteraldehyde is much lower at .2 PPM. Some funeral homes limit gluteraldehyde use to only as a cold sterilant in their instrument trays; even with the lid closed, the strong odor of gluteraldehyde is prevalent. Use of alternative chemicals is recommended.

Communication Skills

The internet continues to be the fastest growing source of information. It is only displaced by television as the most common source for local news. Maintaining

an active website is crucial. For out-of-town family members who have lost a family member in their home town, an up-to-date website could be the determining factor on who they call, and effects your overall **MARKET SHARE**.

Collection Techniques

What's in Your Wallet? For most Americans it is anything but cash. Having a well-defined written Payment Policy and Acceptable methods of Payment policy eliminates most of the collection problems. Learning how to ask for payment is the first step.



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**Survey Shows Funeral Homes Slowly
Adapting to Changing Times**

New York, Oct. 17, 2007: Citrin Cooperman conducted a survey of 200 funeral directors from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania and came up with some interesting results.

“There’s an old saying that even if you’re on the right track, you’re going to get run over if you don’t move fast enough,” says Edward Horton, partner-in-charge of the Funeral Industry Services practice at accounting and business consulting firm Citrin Cooperman & Company. “While there’s been progress made by some funeral home owners and directors, many have still not taken the substantial action they’ll need to take to survive.”

Some of the key findings were: “A majority of funeral homes guarantee or lock-in pricing for pre-paid funerals as a standard practice even though the prospective decedent may be alive for many years and the funeral director could end up not having enough to cover costs. Also almost half of the respondents didn’t know the present value of their funeral home. Most still opt to give away knowledge-based services (e.g. estate planning) rather than devise a method to charge

for them directly or indirectly. Finally, most directors and owners don’t have “exit strategies” although most do have clear general intentions regarding who should inherit or buy their homes.”

“Funeral homes and their staffs generally have a great reputation for caring and serving within their communities,” said Horton. “Owners and directors need to realize that they need to adapt in order to continue serving their communities. This may include requiring more money up front, offering non-traditional services and embracing new technologies, such as the Internet.”

For a full copy of the 80-page survey report or to interview Ed Horton or one of the funeral directors who participated in survey, please contact Tracey Segarra at 212-697-1000, or tsegarra@citrincooperman.com.

About Citrin Cooperman A top 40 full-service accounting firm with more than \$58 million in annual revenue, provides tax, accounting and consulting advice to a variety of clients in New York and New Jersey, with a special emphasis on professional services firms, funeral homes, restaurants, real estate, entertainment, food services, staffing and executive search firms. Founded in 1979.

Info found on FuneralWire.

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Surfing The Net

From Funeral Home Websites



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Humphrey Funeral Service,
Russellville, Arkansas



O'Brien-Straatmann Funeral Home
and Cremations
Kearney and Elm Creek, Nebraska



Becker Funeral Home
Fletcher, Oklahoma



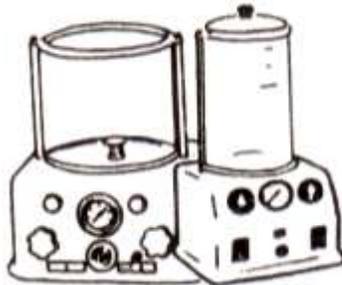
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Wreaths Across
America



Tidbits

TFDA will be sponsoring the presentation of a wreath on the South Steps of the Capitol on Monday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m.

We would like to invite anyone who can attend to do so. The wreath will be 36" with a flag representing each branch of the military. We are doing this to remember those who have fallen and to honor those who serve.

On Saturday, December 15, wreaths will be placed at all Veterans Cemeteries throughout the country and TFDA members will be assisting with those locations in Texas.

For more information, call 800-460-8332 (TFDA) or go to www.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.org

Remember the reality show "Family Plots." The mortuary represented in that show (which wasn't exactly positive for the funeral industry) has now taken on a few more problems than was represented. In the **North County Times** and **The California** serving San Diego and Riverside Counties, an article by Andrea Moss, "Poway Bernardo Mortuary on Probation Under Settlement with State Agency" explained some of the problems.

"The mortuary will be on probation for three years and its former manager (Rick) will surrender his funeral director and embalmer licenses, under separate settlements intended to resolve state charges that the business employed an unlicensed embalmer."

"The complaint alleged the business and the men broke several state laws and committed fraud by hiring an unlicensed man to embalm at least 40 bodies that passed through the mortuary. The charge was filed after a nearly yearlong investigation that included a state's investigator's surprise visit to the business and reported face-to-face encounter with the allegedly unlicensed embalmer while he was wearing a bloody plastic apron."

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Nixon Files Lawsuit Against Cremation Society

Kansas City, MO—InfoZine: A cremation society in Prairie Village, Kansas has been selling pre-paid funeral plans to Missouri consumers. This has gotten the attention of Attorney General Jay Nixon due to not complying with Missouri pre-need laws and prompted filing of a lawsuit.

The Cremation society of Kansas and Missouri (CSKM) has a petition filed against them in Jackson county Circuit Court. Missouri law requires businesses selling preneed must be registered with the state. Since the CSKM is not registered, it should not be selling. It was informed about the situation and did not comply and now they are requesting an injunction to prohibit them from selling or providing preneed funeral plans in Missouri without a license and also the Attorney General is also requesting a court order for them to pay restitution, appropriate penalties and court costs.

1st Grade Proverbs

A first grade teacher had twenty-five students in her class and she presented each child in her class the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading these keep in mind that these are first graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
2. Strike while the.....bug is close
3. It's always darkest before.....Daylight Saving Time
4. Never underestimate the power of.....termites
5. You can lead a horse to water but.....how?
6. Don't bite the hand thatlooks dirty
7. No news isimpossible
8. A miss is as good as aMr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new.....math
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll.....stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust.....me
12. The pen is mightier than thepigs
13. An idle mind isthe best way to relax
14. Where there's smoke there's pollution
15. Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents
16. A penny saved is.....not much
17. Two's company, three's.....the Musketeers
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what.....you put on to go to bed
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you cry andyou have to blow your nose
20. There are none so blind as.....Stevie Wonder
21. Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded
22. If at first you don't succeed.....get new batteries
23. When the blind lead the blind.....get out of the way
24. Better late than.....pregnant.

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