

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox



Late Spring, 2008

www.thedead-beat.com

Volume 9 Issue 1

A Day At the Office

(Sent anonymously by a reader)

A few days ago, following an autopsy, I picked up and did the preparation on a beautiful one-year-old little girl. Not liking this type of situation in the first place, I tried desperately to occupy my mind with other thoughts on the way back to the mortuary from the hospital.



The first thing that I did after returning to the mortuary was to call the family, as I always do. I received the vital information that I needed and then came the hard part, permission to embalm. I thought that it went quite well until the mother gave me the crushing blow of "Don't hurt her." I was already on the brink of tears and that hit me like a tidal wave. Now, I know I can't "hurt her," but this was her mother's way of saying be careful with my little girl.

The preparation went well considering I was wiping tears out of my eyes the whole time. The dressing, cosmetics and casketing were easy, the little girl looked like a doll. Her hair was coal black and her dress was white lace. Still an emotional wreck, I called the family to let them know that the little girl was ready and that they were welcome to come see her.



As time went by, I composed myself in preparation to greet the family that I had yet to meet face-to-face. Finally they arrived and things went well for a little while. The family was very pleased with the outcome of how the little girl looked. I felt that the family, or at least the mother, had obviously heard that an autopsy usually leads to a closed casket or some other horror tale. Knowing the family was pleased, I was pleased, and feeling much better about this situation.

While the family stood at the casket admiring the little girl, in walks her five-year-old big sister. She walks up to the casket, looks over in the casket and says, "When you get better, we'll go out and play, and you can play with the new doll since you've been sick." I was devastated at the girl's sincerity and willingness to share, as was half the family. It hit my heart like a hammer.



Go home and hug your kids, regardless of their age. The innocence and sincerity they possess is priceless. Our children are priceless no matter how old they are.

Editor's note: Thank you to our anonymous writer, you will touch many hearts. If you would like to share any relevant experiences with our readers, please feel free to send them to the editor.

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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.



Amy Howard

Scattering Creains 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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Wildflowers in Golden Prairie & Dogwood Tree at Pugh Funeral Home





Mortuary Muse*

*to think or consider deeply; meditate
By Lowell

Is the phrase, “How Do I Love Thee...Let Me Count The Ways,” about to be replaced with, “How Can I Dispose of Your Body...Let Me Count The Ways”? Recently two civilian-type Dead Beat readers, from Oklahoma, sent me an AP article about alkaline hydrolysis, a method of safely dissolving animal tissue and medical waste. Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and University of Florida, Gainesville use this process to dispose of research cadavers.

Chad Corbin, a funeral director in Manchester, New Hampshire was reported to be considering installing the equipment as a cremation replacement. New Hampshire and Minnesota were said to be the only states that permit it at this time. He has not completed the permitting process and indicated he would charge about the same as cremation even though it would cost more (about \$300,000) to install the equip-

ment.

BioSafe Engineering of Brownsburg, Indiana makes the equipment, “Tissue Digester™” which will reduce animal, medical tissue waste or cadavers to coffee colored liquid the consistency of motor oil and dry bone material about like cremains. The brown liquid may be safely released down the drain and bone material handled as normal cremains. The process involves loading the material to be reduced and sterilized into a horizontal cylinder which then uses water, chemicals, steam heat and pressure. According to BioSafe’s website a fully loaded cylinder takes about three hours to complete the alkaline hydrolysis of the pathological material. The entire process including loading and cooling might be five to eight hours depending on the quality of the steam.

BioSafe Engineering’s WR (2) Tis-

sue Digester™ System technology is written into EU law as the method of disposing of Mad Cow Disease infectious animal waste. The process also inactivates the prions. Brad Crain company president said 40 to 50 of their cylinders are in use by veterinary schools, universities, pharmaceutical companies and the U.S. Government.

A link at BioSafe Engineering’s website takes you to Resomation.com, which is the website for Resomation, Ltd. of Glasgow, Scotland, e-mail: info@resomation.com. Resomation Ltd. features their version of “Bio Cremation...creating ash without flames.” They explain the process of Alkaline Hydrolysis using their equipment which is called the Resomator. For an average body they use about 15 liters of chemical, potassium hydroxide in liquid form, and 350 liters of water. Steam heats the

(Continued on page 5)

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Adair Funeral Homes, Inc. -Tucson, AZ Receive Pinnacle Award for Small Business of Year



Adair Funeral Homes, Inc. in Tucson Arizona is the recipient of the 2008 Pinnacle Award for Small Business of the Year given by the Northern Pima County Chamber of Commerce. This award is given to celebrate and recognize the success and contributions of local businesses to the community. Adair Funeral Homes, Inc. has had the honor and privilege of providing compassionate care to families in southern Arizona for over 50 years.

Have you had an OPEN HOUSE, built a NEW ADDITION to your funeral home, developed a new PROGRAM FOR GRIEVING CLIENTS, RECEIVED AN HONOR from your community, have an interesting HOBBY or DONE SOMETHING THAT WAS JUST PLAIN FUN? If so, tell us about it. We want to tell your story (WE LOVE PICTURES, TOO) call us 800-575-2611, fax us 417-537-4797 or e-mail us: editor@thedead-beat.com.

Daniel Funeral Home, Lamar, MO Sponsors Support Meeting , Remembrance Service and Nancy Hughes, author of "Healing for the Heart"



Nancy Hughes
Author of
"Healing for the
Heart"

The Friendship Support Group from Lamar, Missouri recently held a Remembrance Ceremony for loved ones who had died. The group meets the first Thursday of each month and shares stories and problems in addition to giving each other encouragement in their walk of grief.

The program consisted of a guest speaker, Nancy Hughes, a candle-lighting for attendees' loved ones preceded by an

inspiring song. The guest speaker was the author of "Healing for the Heart." Her book contains personal stories from seven widows including herself. Her presentation included references to her book, but also her personal revelations about widowhood. By sharing these experiences Nancy believes there is help, hope and healing for others. For women who are widows the book is a guide to survival in the world of widowhood. It is an enlightenment for those of us who wonder what to say (or not say) to someone who has become a widow. Refreshments and visiting followed the program.

Nancy is available for speaking engagements and you can purchase her book. She has a website at www.nancyehughes.com You may call her at home 417-682-5014 or her cell 417-262-0080. Her book is also available at amazon.com, Books-a-Million and Target.

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(If you would like to find someone in the funeral industry, let us know-
editor@the
dead-beat.com



Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

The past few weeks the e-mail and fax machine have spit out a half of ream of paper informing, speculating or just blathering about National Pre-arranged Services, Lincoln Memorial Life, their trusts, life insurance transactions, investigations and actions by various state regulatory agencies. Comments also come from funeral directors whose preneed contracts may be affected, other trust and insurance providers, associations and elected state representatives and senators considering various preneed law revisions. In Missouri, the amount to be trusted is likely to be challenged, but the folks that still want an 80/20 percent split may have the edge. As this is written it appears that the legislative session is too near the end to come up with a major revision before adjourning. Study by legislative committees in the interim is likely. It may be a long, hot summer.

From STLTODAY.COM, an article by Todd C. Frankel, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sunday, May 11, had a comprehensive account of the history of the Cassity family with it's adventures in funeral service Hollywood-style. It also spoke of National Prearranged Services' (NPS) birth and growth and their various Clayton, Missouri-based, Forever Enterprises. Frankel pointed out that Ohio was the first state to start investigating NPS, but Texas was the first state to go public and regulators now control three of the Cassity companies.

Hopefully NPS can still make the necessary changes in their insurance/trust operations to keep everyone happy. There will surely be new developments faster than we get **The Dead Beat** out.

Two noble occupations: **Insurance**-which provides fiscal protection and security and **Compassionate Funeral Service**-which takes care of families during tragic times, should be a perfect match. Judging from the activities of some of their offspring (third-party preneed sellers) they should not be allowed to breed.

Contrary opinions will be granted equal time, 48 words, send opinions to **The Dead Beat**.

About the Author:

Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 104-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.

Mortuary Muse (Cont.)

water to 350 degrees with pressure in the cylinder to speed up the process.

BioSafe Engineering says their equipment ranges in size from 11 pound capacity up to and beyond 10,000 pounds. Proponents claim that Alkaline Hydrolysis is environmentally superior to cremation because of lack of emissions and less fuel needed for the small amount of steam heat. The resulting brownish liquid is sterile with a mild ammonia odor and could be safely poured on the ground. The shadow dry bone that is left easily crushes to small fragments or powder. Embalming chemical residue is also broken down to harmless components within the water. (I wonder if the logistics of disposing or moving 350 liters of liquid might offset some of the green benefits. Most sewer systems use electric motors on pumps throughout their operating systems.) The destruction of pathological tissue from Mad Cow Disease and the inactivation of the deadly prions by Alkaline Hydrolysis is certainly something to consider.

Many people think that medical donation is the ultimate end disposition. Few realize that at least some of the parts are going to be cremated or maybe dissolved and flushed down the drain.

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After-Thoughts

By Joanne Howard

Well, it's that time of the year again with the graduations, weddings and everything else that goes with end of school year and start of summer.

I attended my annual high school scholarship meeting. A committee interviews those interested in scholarships for their college education. We determine who will receive the individual scholarships based on the potential graduates qualifications and interests. I have attended this meeting for many years. First, I was representative for the PTO (Parents-Teachers Organization) and now I attend for the scholarship that's given in memory of my girls. It's a bittersweet occasion. I'm glad to be helping the future college attendees and it's great getting to know the kids a bit better. But it's upsetting to me because I am prompted with a lot of "wonder what" thoughts.

"Wonder what the girls would have been doing if they were still living?" "Wonder if these children will be living long enough to complete their college

education?" "Wonder what Amy was thinking when she was interviewing?" "Wonder what Laura would have been like in this interview?" I guess these are just the normal ponderings of a parent that lost a child, but it's so frustrating to know that I will never know the answers to any of these questions. It is not really relevant whether I do or not, but it just leaves you with an overwhelming sad feeling.

Those same feelings are related to everybody's losses. If your spouse has died and some milestone in your child's life happens, you miss that person to share your joy. If your parent is no longer with you and you've accomplished something that would have made them proud, you tremendously miss their presence. So what is the solution to these voids and sadness? I do think there is one.

What there is—there is an adjustment. Yes, you adjust to the situation that might be missing someone and take joy in the present happenings. No, you don't forget the missing person and yes, you feel sad, but life goes on. You treasure the memo-

ries that you have and look forward to future moments that will also become memories. But how do you tell someone that has recently lost someone about the future. Truly they don't want to hear about it. So as funeral directors we just have to share their sorrow how it's expressed and know that things will get better even though we don't share that knowledge.

Loss will happen, some moments will be sad and some will be happy, but ultimately life goes on no matter what. We need to remember to help people in any way that we can.



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 after-care 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@thedead-beat.com.

Wedding Announcement

Calvin W. and Christina (Gwaltney) Whitaker



Calvin W. and Christina (Gwaltney) Whitaker



Calvin W. Whitaker, owner of St. Louis Livery Service, & Vice-President of the MFDEA 6th & 7th District, weds Christina V. Gwaltney of John L. Ziegenhein & Sons Funeral Homes on October 27, 2007 at The Great Hall at Ambruster-Donnelly Mortuary in Clayton, MO. Both are graduates of the Funeral Directing program at Forest Park Community College. Christina plans to continue her education this fall in the Mortuary Science program at Forest Park. The couple has been in the funeral industry since the 90's and is making a memorable mark in the industry. The couple resides in St. Louis, MO.



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Muehlebach Funeral Home Winner of OGR Exemplary Service Award

Kansas City, MO (March 17, 2008): Muehlebach Funeral Home, Kansas City, has been recognized as an Exemplary Service Award winner by the International Order of the Golden Rule, a professional association of local, family owned and operated Golden Rule funeral homes. The funeral home was honored this April during the association's annual conference in Chicago.



Muehlebach Funeral Home
Kansas City, MO

Winners of the 2007 Exemplary Service Awards were determined by comments submitted by families that had used the firm's services during the past year. A member committee made the final judgments.



Muehlebach Funeral Home
Kansas City, MO

"We are extremely proud to have been chosen from among so many of our colleagues who work hard to provide the utmost in service to families," said Steve Pierce, owner of Muehlebach Funeral Home. "Nothing gives me and our entire staff greater pleasure than knowing we have done our absolute best for families at a very difficult time. We will continue to honor the memories of all whom we have served by adhering to the Golden Rule standards of excellence."

"Members chosen for this prestigious award represent the highest in service excellence," said Robin L. Williams, president of the association's board of directors. "We are proud to pay tribute to Muehlebach Funeral Home as an Exemplary Service Award winner. We want every family in the community to know and appreciate the caring, compassionate service this excellent funeral home consistently provides."

Golden Rule funeral homes are dedicated to offering reliability, fair pricing, and dignified, caring service to families "by the Golden Rule." Firms that hold membership must establish and maintain the highest standards of quality and ethical conduct. Contact: Steve Pierce, (816) 444-2060, spierce@muehlebachchapel.com. Helpful consumer information is available online at www.golden-rule.com.



Steve Pierce

Unveiling of "Our Heroes" Painting for Veteran's Cemetery Abilene, Texas

On May 20, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center Main Foyer, the largest painting that will hang in a veterans' cemetery will be unveiled. The large painting, five feet by eight feet, will honor the members of the United States Military. Fourteen active members of various branches of the military posed for this painting and most if not all will be present for the unveiling. The details in the painting are unbelievable and breath taking.

The painting was commissioned by Jack and Sandie North, owners of North's Funeral Home, Abilene, Texas. The North's have been longtime supporters of the military and especially Dyess Air force Base where Mr. North has been an honorary commander since 1985.

Mike Lanier is the artist of the painting. Mr. Lanier is an Abilene artist who is known for his detail work in his paintings. This painting will be his largest to date. Mr. Lanier said that he is very honored to have been selected to paint this historical and memorial painting.

Mr. Jim Defoor, the Taylor County Veterans officer, will be the master of ceremonies. Representatives of the Texas State Veterans Land Commission will speak as well as representatives of the city and county commissions. Brigadier General Garrett Harencak, commander of the 509th bombardment wing at Whiteman Air Force Base will return to Abilene for this special event and will speak for the military.

Special videos of famous military pictures will precede the ceremony and a special tribute to veterans will follow the unveiling.

All veterans and active duty personnel, as well as the public, are invited to this special event honoring our veterans. The painting will be on display in various Abilene locations until the new Abilene Veterans Cemetery will open in the spring of 2009.



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The Work of Loss

By Ken Doka

When ever we experience a loss, especially the death of a spouse, there is a great deal of business that needs to be done. This business interacts with our grief. It may complicate our emotions and reactions. For some, the intensity of grief may immobilize us. For others, the work of loss can be a motivator that gives a sense of meaning and purpose to our day.

As we take stock of ourselves, there are two questions that we need to ask. Have we done the work that a loss involves? And how does this affect our grief?

Whenever someone dies, there are tasks that must be completed. We may need to speak to an attorney if there is a will that needs to be probated or an estate that should be settled. We may have to notify different agencies such as Social Security to see if there are adjustments that need to be made. We may belong to unions or other fraternal associations that may provide benefits.

We may have to deal with other details as well. Titles on cars, personal property, or even deeds may need to change. We may wish to review our wills and insurance policies to assess if we need to change beneficiaries. We may have to review all our bank and investment accounts.

In short, there is a great deal of hard work that needs to be done, and done relatively soon.

Yet, all this work comes at a time when we are least ready for it.

Our energy levels may be low. Our emotions may be intense.

That is why the second question is so critical. It is not enough to assess what we must do. We need to understand how well we can do it.

If work becomes difficult, treat it like any other stressful situation. We do not need to do everything by ourselves. In some cases, an attorney or a trusted relative may assist or at least accompany us. Often funeral directors can assist us in applying for benefits and notifying Social Security. We can pace ourselves and prioritize what has to be completed in some speed and what can wait. We may want to reward ourselves—to schedule, for example, a quiet dinner with good friends or a day at a spa after a particularly stressful day.

And we may want to discuss not only what has been done but also the ways that it affects us. Talking about our responses to a support group, counselor, or confidant, provides an opportunity for us to vent and may yield solutions for problems that

emerge.

Remember, there are some things that we can decide whether we even want to do. Cleaning out closets or personal possessions are individual decisions that each of us make differently. Jolene, for example, decided not to change her husband's voice on their answering machine. It comforts her to hear his voice.

Some work does not need to be done.

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)

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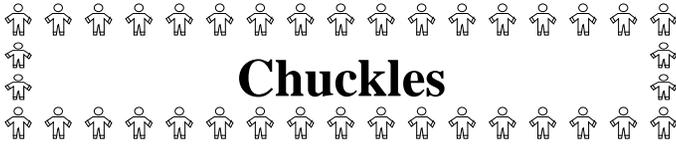
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Chuckles

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

Bubba's Doctor Visit

Those of us who spend much time in a doctor's office should appreciate this! Doesn't it seem more and more that physicians are running their practices like an assembly line? Here's what happened to Bubba. Bubba walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Bubba said, "Shingles." so she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Bubba what he had.



Bubba said, "Shingles." So she wrote down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told Bubba to wait in the examining room. A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Bubba what he had. Bubba said, "Shingles." So the nurse gave Bubba a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, and told Bubba to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor. An hour later the doctor came in and found Bubba sitting patiently in the nude and asked Bubba what he had. Bubba said, "Shingles." The doctor asked, "Where?" Bubba said, "Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload 'em?"

Bill and Sam

Bill and Sam, two elderly friends, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Bill didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something. But after Bill hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried. However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Bill lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him. A month passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Bill, but one day, Sam approached the park and -lo and behold!- there sat Bill! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so. The he said, "For crying out loud Bill, what in the world happened to you?" Bill replied, "I have been in jail." "Jail?" cried Sam. "What in the world for?" "Well," Bill said, "you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometime go?" "Yeah," said Sam, "I remember her. What about her?" "Well, one day she filed rape charges against me; and, at 81 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pled 'guilty' and the judge gave me 30 days for perjury."



My Living Will

Last night my sister and I were sitting in the den and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all! If that ever happens, just pull the plug." So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine. She's such a b****.

More Blonde Jokes

There's this blonde out for a walk. She comes to a river and sees another blonde on the opposite bank. "Yoo-hoo!" she shouts, "How can I get to the other side?" The second blonde looks up the river then down the river and shouts back, "You ARE on the other side."

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, "PULL OVER!" The blonde yelled back, "IT'S A SCARF!"

Comments

Used to read Mid-Continent Mortician, when I was a kid (Dad had F.H.) and Dead Beat resembles that magazine.

John Ryzek, Neptune Society

RE: Behind the Back Fence, Early Spring, 2008 Edition

"We are just curious...this article says Social Services contributes about \$2,250 for indigent cases. Is this statewide in the U.S.? Or strictly in Canada? Here in Brown County, Texas, we are compensated \$650.00. Up until about a year and a half ago, we only received \$400! Enjoy your publication!!

Barbie Young, Funeral Director

(Editor: This was in the province of Ontario, Canada. In Barton County, Missouri we receive a free burial space or \$600 for direct cremation)

Barbie also commented: I'm always combing through it (The Dead Beat) because you have interesting, informative articles. Plus some pretty darned good jokes!!

Chuckles (cont.)

FINALLY, THE BLONDE JOKE TO END ALL BLONDE JOKES:

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and the one was name Timex. Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?" "HELLOOOOOOOO.....," answered the blonde. "They're watch dogs."

Golf One Liners

Heard the one about the woman who was nervous about dinner? Her husband was out shooting golf and she didn't know how to prepare them. (Good thing he doesn't shoot craps).



Proof that golfers are self-abusive: Who else would spend that much time and effort on a game that spelled backwards reads "flog"?

Bumper sticker: Old golfers never die.... They just lose distance.



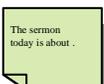
Golf and sex are just about the only things you can enjoy without being good at them.

Jokes that Can Be Told in Church

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"



At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said "Johnny, what's the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



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InLieuofFlowers.info Website

Victoria, Texas, March 25, 2008 — Recent updates to InLieuofFlowers.info have made the Web site an even better resource for funeral directors and other funeral home staff members. The Web master, Clay Atchison, affirmed his commitment to serving members of the funeral service professions in a recent interview. "It's my hope to assist funeral home owners and their support staff in providing this valuable information to their client families, their friends and community members who face the social challenges after a death."

Those social challenges can be overwhelming. One of the most difficult decisions facing friends and family members involves the selection of sympathy flowers. The home page of the Web site declares, "Flowers are a visual expression of love, sympathy, and respect. They are means of lending support and sharing the burden of grief."

Atchison's Web site provides insight into buying the right flowers for the type of relationship shared. Whether the deceased was an immediate family member, a friend, neighbor or a business associate, InLieuofFlowers.info has the recommended floral arrangement.

Certainly, this decision is complicated by the current trend of requesting donations of money to a charity in honor of the deceased. This trend is reflected in the all-too-common suggestion made in obituaries and death notices, "in lieu of flowers."

"I've watched people stress out over these decisions, and ultimately do nothing at all," said Clay Atchison, Web master of the site InLieuofFlowers.info, in a recent interview. "Then they feel so guilty about the whole thing. It's heart-wrenching to watch them struggle to find the perfect solution."

[Funeral Director, Todd Van Beck](#) offers this elegant comment on the subject: "Families deserve the right of complete freedom of expression at time of death. People are not cut from the same spiritual or emotional mold. Therefore, they should be free to express themselves in the manner which best conveys their emotions. Any expression which is the result of dictate, ceases to be an act of the heart."

Recognizing the importance of action at times like these,



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InLieuofFlowers.info provides support to both funeral service professionals and the communities they serve. "It's my goal to help everyone come to know the perfect heart-driven action to take, and assist them in taking it with the ease and self-assurance that comes when you know you've "done the right thing."

For additional information contact:

Contact Person: Clay Atchison III

Company Name: McAdams Floral

Telephone Number: 361-575-2307

Fax Number: 361-575-2557

Email Address: clay@mcadamsfloral.com

Web site address: <http://www.inlieuofflowers.info>

InLieuofFlowers.info is a Web site where you can locate the resources to select the perfect expression of sympathy after the death of a loved one, friend or acquaintance. The wealth of information on the site ranges from the tribute guide by relationship mentioned earlier, to a selection of bereavement poems and sympathy card messages. There's also a section covering sympathy etiquette, as well as a compendium of funeral hymns, and a glossary of sympathy terminology.

NEW MORTUARY SERVICE in Longview, Texas

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They look forward to serving all funeral facilities with needs in Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Upshur, Titus, and surrounding counties.

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues



IOWA



Robert Clair Sheets, 74, died March 27 in Austin, TX. Robert was a graduate of the St. Louis College of Mortuary Science and a second generation funeral director. He was the former owner of Sheets & Son Funeral Home in Tipton. Services were directed by Fry Funeral Home of Tipton.

MISSOURI



Arthur A. Bruce, Jr., 81, of Carthage, died May 12. A graduate of the College of Mortuary Science in St. Louis, he was a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He formerly owned funeral homes in Natchez, MS, Lamar, MO and Poplar Bluff, MO. He owned and operated Ulmer Funeral Home, Carthage, MO prior to his retirement in 1990. His arrangements were under the direction of Ulmer Funeral Home in Carthage.

Charles Bradford Davis, 86, of Salisbury died April 2. A home builder, Mr. Davis is the father of Kayla Carter of Elsberry. Services were directed by Summerville Funeral Home in Salisbury.



Sharon Lee Clary, 68, of Mountain Grove, died February 28, 2008. She was a licensed funeral director and embalmer and wife of Gene Clary, retired funeral director and embalmer. Sharon and Gene owned and operated the Clary Funeral Home in Winona until 1972. They lived in Sedalia for 11 years and moved back to Mountain Grove where they operated their Angus farm.

Services were directed by Clary Funeral Homes, LLC.

Dale Dean Snow, 61 of Richmond, died March 29. He was a graduate of the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. A funeral director and embalmer he owned the Snow Funeral Homes in Richmond and Wellington. Dean had served as National Deputy commander of D-Mort under Tom Shepardson and was former Region 7 D-Mort Commander. He was Ray County Coroner for 24 years. Many civic and service groups benefited from Dean's dedication to his community. Services were directed by Polly Funeral Home in Richmond.

TEXAS

Betty Roy Crawford, died May 11. She was wife of Billy Crawford and they were former owners of Crawford - A. Crim Funeral Home of Henderson, Texas. Services were under the direction of Crawford-Crim-Bryan Funeral Home.

Virginia Kelsey Gibbs, died March 29. She was the widow of Marvin Gibbs, owner of Fry-Gibbs Funeral Home, Paris, Texas. Services were under the direction of Fry-Gibbs Funeral Home.

Janet Gerke, died April 28. She was the wife of Clarence Gerke of Memorial Oaks Chapel, Inc. Brenham. Services were directed by Memorial Oaks Chapel, Inc.

Mike Gowens, died April 2. He was the funeral director in charge of Brown's Funeral Home in Irving. Services were under the direction of Brown's Funeral Home.

Mary H. Mulkey, died April 7. Mrs. Mulkey was the wife of W. Dean Mulkey of Mulkey-Mason, Jack Schmitz and Son in Denton and the mother of R. Craig Mulkey, Lewisville. Services were directed by Mulkey-Mason, Jack Schmitz and Son Funeral Home.

Wayne Shergur, died April 5. Mr. Shergur was a 50-plus-year licensee. Arrangements were with David Funeral Directors in Houston.

Melville Sims, died May 15. She was the mother of Jesse Sims and mother-in-law of Doris Sims. Services were under the direction of Franklin Bartley Funeral Home in Lubbock.

Reuben D. "Rip" Talasek, died May 8, 2008. He was co-founder and former co-owner of Harper-Talasek Funeral Home—Temple, Killeen and Salado. He also was a former Texas State Representative. Services were handled by Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Temple.

Jimmie Lee Wilson, died April 14. She was the wife of Frank W. Wilson of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors in Odessa. Services were arranged by Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

CALIFORNIA: Elizabeth Wadlow, 101, of San Diego died April 24. She had been a contributor to **The Dead Beat**. She has shared her thoughts and her poetry with us.

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@thedeat-beat.com

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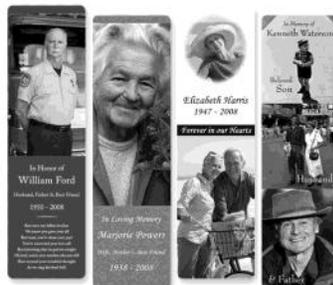
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The Pugh Funeral Home Story

*(Not Your Ordinary Business Profile-
Or It Didn't Work Out!)*

By Lowell Pugh, Owner

On the first of January our family funeral home's 104th anniversary slid quietly by without fanfare. My paternal grandmother had two brothers, James and John Phillips, in the hardware business at the turn of the century. They bought the adjacent furniture and undertaking business at the close of 1903 from Udell & Finney. We have only 1903 records from U & F, so we don't know when they were actually established. There were other funeral activities prior to this time by A. Morton who advertised coffins for sale in 1882 and a Perry Hurlburt had an undertaking business in Golden City before moving to Joplin. But let's continue our story.

James and John asked, lured or kidnapped a younger brother Enoch (E.A.) to return from working at a Mercantile in Everton, Missouri to take over the undertaking business. He didn't really know anything about this business either. E.A. went to Springfield, Missouri and took a three-day course in embalming from August Lohmeyer, a Springfield undertaker and state board member. E.A. was granted Missouri embalmer license No. 802. We still have his illustrated textbook which was a great hit when I sneaked it out for grade school show-and-tell.

The brothers expanded the mezzanine in the furniture store and moved the hardware business into that building. Caskets and coffins were kept upstairs, the hearse and matched grey team of horses in a barn behind the store and embalming was done in the home of the client.

Most finished caskets were bought from Kriegle Casket Company in St. Louis and Abernathy Furniture and Casket Company in Kansas City. The funeral home's first sale was a five-foot, nine inch, black crepe Kriegle casket for \$25, slippers for \$1.17 and an \$8 hearse charge.

(When the hardware store building was sold a few years ago, we donated: casket hardware and trim, paper goods, a couple of caskets and a keyhole-formaldehyde-fumigator from the early days of the funeral home to the funeral service museum in Houston.)

In 1912 James Phillips who was far the better manager of the trio died and left three small orphaned children. Probably due to settling James' estate, the business was split up.

In 1919, E.A. took a train to St. Louis and returned with a Dodge chassis motor hearse. The matched grey horses were relegated to dray duty. The Dodge hearse was an instant success even though a country funeral in muddy weather took all day and several stops to refill the radiator with water from a ditch.

The undertaking was in another store building by 1921 and John had split off to start his own ill-fated grocery and hardware. Phillips Bros. became E.A. Phillips Hardware, Furni-

ture & Undertaking. What was probably supposed to be a family commercial empire—didn't work out.

My father, Harold F. Pugh, started working for uncle Enoch in



E. A. & Harold in Hardware Store

1922 at the age of 16. He worked in all aspects of both businesses as clerk, director's assistant and general lackey. Harold graduated from the Williams

Institute of Embalming in Kansas City in 1928. That

same year they started an ambulance service with a 1928 Meteor combination funeral coach/ambulance. Ambulance service, an honorable, humanitarian, civic enterprise which should also have been profitable..... didn't work out.

The present funeral home was purchased in 1931 to be used as a funeral home and residence by E.A. and his second wife, Mary. She had been the firm's bookkeeper for many years and she convinced E.A. to make the move of the funeral business from Main Street. Mary died in 1935 and E.A. pretty much lost interest in the operation of either business and left the day-to-day operations up to my parents, Harold and Hazel Pugh. E.A. continued to live in the funeral home and was a daily presence at the retail store until shortly before his death in 1965.

E.A. had no children, but was a compassionate man and provided a lot of assistance to family members, local charity and churches. He never had as much money as people thought, but maintained the appearance of a comfortable lifestyle. He put very little money back into the business preferring to live for himself and not for the business. He often used business operating capital to pursue land, cattle, fox hounds and perhaps an occasional female—which didn't work out.



E. A. & his dogs

Looking through the records of the 1930's and early 1940's you

(Continued on page 17)



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Cadillac Leads the Way with OnStar's New Navigational Services

Detroit, MI, April 11—OnStar, standard on all Cadillac professional vehicles, recently announced the introduction of two new navigational services to complement and enhance its existing Turn-by-Turn service, the most widely available navigation system on the market today. These features solidify Cadillac's technology leadership by offering vehicles with embedded navigation systems and more options than any other auto manufacturer within the professional vehicle industry.

The first new service is OnStar Destination Download*, which enables MY2009 OnStar subscribers with screen-based navigation systems to download directions to their navigation screen by connecting to an OnStar advisor while driving. The second service, OnStar eNav*, allows subscribers with a Turn-by-Turn Navigation*-capable vehicle (MY2006 to present) to find and save destinations on MapQuest.com and have those destinations sent to their vehicle's OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation system.

Typically to use a screen-based navigation system, drivers have to bring their vehicle to a stop and place it in park. With OnStar Destination Download, subscribers can have the address of their destination sent directly to their navigation system while still driving, providing a safe, easy and immediate solution.

OnStar Destination Download will be available on all model year 2009 Cadillac professional vehicles, including the new DTS-L short stretch livery sedan.

OnStar's second new service offering, OnStar eNav, allows subscribers to plan their travel destinations on the MapQuest site (www.mapquest.com) and then send those destination to their OnStar system. When ready to retrieve those directions, subscribers simply press their vehicle's OnStar phone button to access voice-guided commands through which they can select their route.

OnStar eNav will be available retroactively on 2.7 million current Turn-by-Turn capable GM vehicles. Later this year eNav will also combine with OnStar Destination Download to download destinations directly to the vehicle's screen-based navigation systems.

For more information on each of these navigational services, please visit www.onstar.com.

* Part of OnStar's one-year free "Directions & Connections" service plan subscription.

The Pugh Funeral Home Story (Cont.)

(Continued from page 16)

will see the accounts receivable littered with entries describing payments by produce, animals and labor for wallpapering to gathering corn or sowing seed. The casket selection dwindled to an assortment of cloth-covered, one hardwood and one 20 gauge half couch. Then came WWII with tire and gas shortages. E.A. had always buried his family in steel vaults. He saved the last one for himself. Consequently, when his brother Zedoc died in 1943 he got only a wooden rough box for an outer receptacle. Sorry Zed. It didn't work out. Zed probably didn't mind. There are still a few bottles of his home brew around somewhere.

In 1944 at age 12, I made my first ambulance trip as an attendant. Due to the patient's immediate needs I realized that I must have forgotten to put the urinal back in the equipment box and had to scrounge an empty tomato can. The patient was coming home from the hospital and survived for awhile. With three elderly couples and a maiden aunt we made 27 ambulance calls for that family in the next 15 years. In high school I helped with the



Harold & Lowell
Pugh

(Continued on page 20)

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The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox
 Volume: Nine Number: One Late Spring '08

Editor: Joanne Howard Publisher: Lowell Pugh

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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Additional Chuckle

Why I Can't Shop at Wal-Mart Anymore



Yesterday I was buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for Toot, the wonder dog, at Wal-Mart and was about to check out. A woman behind me asked if I had a dog. On impulse to this stupid question, I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, and that I was starting the Purina Diet again.

Although I probably shouldn't because I ended up in the hospital last time, but I lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete, so I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in the line was by now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me.

I told her no; I stepped off a curb to sniff an Irish Setter's behind and a car hit us both.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack, he was laughing so hard!

Wal-Mart won't let me shop there anymore!!!!

University of Central Oklahoma Graduates



Edmond, OK—The Funeral Service Education Department at the University of Central Oklahoma announces the following students have recently completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree:

- Matthew Boydston, Oklahoma City, OK**
- Bobby John Byfuglien, Casselton, ND**
- Marlisa Camerer, Tulsa, OK**
- John Davenport, Norman, OK**
- Deandra Hightower, Ada, OK**
- Traci Icke, Edmond, OK**
- Scott T. Smith, Oklahoma City, OK**
- Thelma Williamson, Wheatland, OK**

The following student completed the Funeral Service Education Certificate program:

Jimmy Spurlock, Henryetta, OK

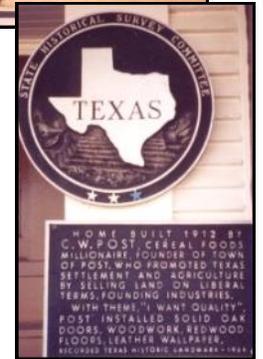


As We Drive By

We love to take pictures as we go by funeral homes, but we'd welcome pictures, if you send them to us. These were sent to us by Shawn Hughes.



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**The Pugh Funeral Home Story
(Cont.)**

(Continued from page 17)

ambulance calls, first with a '36 Miller Packard which was replaced with a '48 Superior Pontiac combination coach/ambulance. I made first calls, did yard work, helped with some funerals and set up cemetery equipment. Then I decided to join the branch of the family that was farming. It didn't work out either.

I started my apprenticeship in 1951 and graduated from St. Louis College of Mortuary Science in 1952. Betty (Frock) and I married shortly thereafter. Businessmen from a neighboring town asked us to put in a branch funeral home to replace their store-front funeral business that had closed. I had already received my draft notice. That didn't work out.

I was inducted in the U.S. Army in 1953 and was sent to Ft. Bliss, Texas for AAA training. I tried to get in the medics. It didn't work out.

In relation to funeral business, I took my oral exam on furlough and received my license after shipping out to Germany in 1954. I applied for Graves Registration. But it didn't work out.

After returning home in 1955, I started fulltime with the family business and helped Ferry Funeral Home in Nevada, MO on occasion. The Phillips retail store had degraded to the point of it was mostly a loafing place for E.A. and his friends. E.A.'s brother John was there daily, more or less on a pension from

E.A., so he wouldn't be home with "that" wife. John's principle duty was to push an ancient feather duster around. We tried to not let him answer the phone. A few times he reminded E.A. that he may not have paid John \$10 for a glass showcase. My dad said E.A. paid for it several times. I suggested to the family it was time to close the store and we just work on the funeral home. It didn't work out.

Betty and I started our family in 1956. Holly, Phillip and Ivy were the end result. It worked out better than expected.

My parents had always attended district MFD & EA meetings so we joined also. The chairs rotated up from secretary/

treasurer and I was pleased to accept the bottom slot in anticipation of moving up. They thought I was so good I

(Continued on page 22)



Hazel and Harold Pugh, Ivy, Phillip, Betty, Myrtle Thomas, Lowell and seated, Holly and E.A.



It Was Only a Quarter

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh, God, I almost sold your son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

This is an example of how much people watch Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself, "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.



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Some Thoughts

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. —George Burns.



Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. —Mark Twain.

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. —Albert Levine.

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. —Bob Hope.



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I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it. —W. C. Fields.

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. —Will Rogers.



Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out. —Phyllis Diller.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. —Billy Crystal.



“Dear Counselor....”

By Bill Stalter

The Pugh Funeral Home Story (Cont.)

Dear Counselor,

The Missouri funeral home I purchased has a block of NPS preneed contracts. The prior owner rolled over to NPS his joint account contracts and kept 20%. Can I sue the bank that surrendered the joint accounts?

R.S.Mo. §436.053 governs preneed contracts that are funded with joint bank accounts. The law sets out the requirements of the agreement between the funeral home and the purchaser, and contemplates that the parties will have joint control over the account. The funeral home, not the bank, has the responsibility for ensuring compliance with §436.053. The prior owner may have violated Chapter 436 if he/she terminated the joint accounts and rolled them over to NPS without the consumers’ consent. In the months to come, regulators may discover that this type of rollover happened more frequently than they care to know.

Before funeral directors criticize their brethren who made such rollovers, they need to determine how compliant their joint account contracts are. A funeral director recently provided testimony at a legislative hearing about how safe his preneed accounts were: in a single CD at his local bank. The law requires individual accounts. Since 9/11, the Patriot Act requires financial institutions to obtain more information when joint accounts are set up. It is so difficult setting up a joint account these days that §436.053 is no longer practical.

Getting back to the question at hand, you can find an attorney that will be prepared to take on the bank, but your true cause of action is with the prior owner. If that becomes your course of action, the purchase agreement and the issue of your due diligence will be put to the test.

Bill Stalter answers our questions for educational purposes only. It is *The Dead Beat’s* intent to give the reader 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.

(Continued from page 20)

should be secretary/treasurer again next year. It didn’t work out.

My father and I partnered in 1963. We changed the name of the business from Phillips to Phillips-Pugh Funeral Home assuring E.A. that his name would remain in the family business forever. We expanded the retail business and improved the funeral home property. E.A. died in 1965 and I carried him the 24 feet from his bed to the prep table. In 1968 I converted a Chevrolet Sport Van into the first van-style ambulance in the area. My father, Harold didn’t much like my ambulance truck. He died at the age of 62 in December that year. Too many cigarettes. Too much whiskey. Too common in this stressful profession.

I got tired of answering the phone for Mr. Phillips and changed the name to Pugh Funeral Home in 1969. Sorry Uncle, but it just didn’t work out. That same year I turned the ambulance service over to the city. My colleagues in the county seat were going to quit too, but backed down and continued for another year or so. Another operator in an adjoining county continued until he decided he wasn’t going to get any of our business.

In 1975 I became a licensed MEMT (paramedic), Betty was an EMT and we helped on the city volunteer ambulance crew. The city’s new service was the first all-volunteer ambulance in the state under the new state/federal program. I went back to the U.S. Army Reserve for eight years running the medical section of the 3rd. Bn. 75th FA. With a momentary lapse of san-

ity I agreed to take my turn as mayor. The city had a dozen resignations and I fired the police chief. It didn’t work out.

The seventies were good with our three teenage kids to help with maintenance and service chores. It didn’t last. We didn’t raise any undertakers. I can’t say it didn’t work out though. They are all successful in their fields-education, computer science and medical. But two of the grandchildren want our funeral coach when we are done with it.

Since I was pretty busy in 1975 I missed a couple of district MFDA meetings. At the third quarter meeting I learned that I was president that year, but no one got around to telling me until after the meeting. Then the host for the fourth meeting dropped the ball. My association career still didn’t work out.

My mother, Hazel W. Pugh, died May 31, 1985 after eight years of severe emphysema. Again too many cigarettes and secondhand smoke though she claimed the possibility of lung damage from tanning hides and making fur coats during the depression. She had done everything there is to do in a funeral home except the actual embalming and maybe mowing grass. She made some burial clothes in the depression years and did all cosmetic and hair care until Betty and I took over. A beautician friend once asked her how she could continue to take care of her friends. She told the friend that she thought of the body as a vacant house. “The occupant was no longer there.” She answered the funeral home tele-

(Continued on page 30)



We need some questions for the “Dear Counselor....” column. Please send your questions to Bill’s e-mail or The Dead Beat’s and we will get some answers in future issues. email: wastal@swbell.net bill@stalterlegal.com Or Editor@thedead-beat.com Or Fax: 1-417-537-4797

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Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home— Branson, Missouri Ozarks Memorial Park Cemetery & Branson Monument Company



Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home—Branson, MO



Molly & Thomas

Branson area in the fact of being located next door to the Ozarks Memorial Park Cemetery on East Hwy. 76. Often, if weather is permitting, family and friends walk to the final resting place of the deceased following the funeral service in the funeral home.

Darrel and Susan Bearden and the funeral home personnel take a great deal of pride in providing a comfortable and family environment for all those involved during the stressful time of the loss of a family member or close friend.

The Snapp-Bearden Funeral home was opened in August of 1984 in Branson. The Snapp family began in the death care industry by opening a monument business in Kirbyville in 1944, about three miles from the Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home's present location on East Highway 76.



Shortly after Irven and Pheobe Snapp became involved in supply quality granite monuments to the people of the Branson area, they

moved their monument sales office to North Highway 65 in Branson on what is now know as Branson Landing Boulevard.

In the late 1950's, Mr. and Mrs. Snapp were made aware that Mr. Claude Binkley desired to sell the Ozarks Memorial Park Cemetery located on a very quiet side of Branson just across from Lake Taneycomo on East Highway 76 on Mt. Branson (at the time this was a more rural area of Branson). Mr. and Mrs. Snapp purchased the cemetery in 1957.



Today the cemetery is still visited by people from all over the United States in the Fall to view the beautiful maple trees planted throughout the cemetery which is adjacent to the Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home.



Chapel

After years of hard work and long hours of working in the monument carving and cemetery business, the Snapp's wished to slow down, do some traveling, and dedicate more time to their trucking business headquartered in Branson.

When the funeral home began in 1984, it was one of two serving the people of Branson and surrounding areas. Many people of the area had suggested the need for more than one funeral home to serve the area in and around a quick growing Branson. The funeral home is unique to the

The Snapp family now has great grandchildren involved in daily activities in all three businesses, including funeral home, cemetery and monuments.

Funeral service to the Branson and surrounding communities can be passed through generations because of the diligence and hard work of all family members involved in each preceding generation. The Snapp and Bearden families are dedicated to easing the burden of all families who come through their doors needing funeral care, a monument or cemetery property for the final resting site. The plaque on the wall of our funeral home contains more than words it conveys our purpose. It reads, "THIS BUILDING AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN IT ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA THROUGH ONE OF THE HARDEST TIMES IN LIFE."

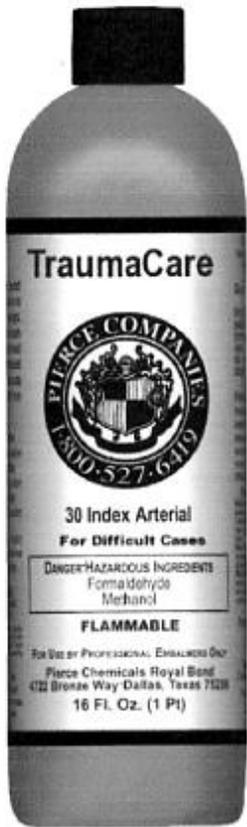


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Communications

“If I can understand what you really want we will try to accommodate your wishes.” We know what we normally do, but at times it is difficult to understand if that is what the family really wants. Most families, and many ministers, are unclear on the difference between a “funeral service” and a “memorial service,” or a “graveside service” and a “committal service.” Communication Skills is an art that must be learned and improved upon by all of us.



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MFDEA 6th & 7th Districts Donate to St. Louis Community College at Forest Park Funeral Service Program

by Calvin and Chris Whitaker, MFDEA 6th & 7th Districts

The 6 & 7th Districts of the MFDEA donated money to Mr. Steve Koosmann and Mr. Steve Smith of St. Louis Community College at Forest Park Funeral Service Program for the 2008 MFDEA Convention. The donation will be used for a booth at this year’s convention.

The MFDEA 6 and 7th Districts feel strongly about the Funeral Service Program at the St. Louis Community College being able to attend the convention. They would like everyone to keep in mind that there are many Mortuary Colleges around, but this is the only Mortuary College in the state of Missouri. We urge everyone to show their support to this college in some way. Remember in supporting this program, you are supporting the future of our industry.



Pictured from left to right:
Calvin Whitaker (Vice-President MFDEA), Mr. Steve Koosmann (Director of Mortuary Science Program), & Mr. Steve Smith (Director of Funeral Directing Program)

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Did He Have a Premonition? By Lowell Pugh

Last December a friend in San Diego sent me a copy of his mother's funeral bill with the ledger entries starting August 19, 1930 for an ambulance trip to Springfield, Missouri.

The account read as follows:

8/19 Ambulance to Spg	\$25.00
8/23 Casket Emb. Etc./Funeral Car	<u>\$150.00</u>
	\$175.00
8/25 By Cash	\$50.00
8/22 By Cash (Monta)	25.00
9/22 By Labor 5 Days (R. Horning)	7.50
9/22 By Labor 11/2 days (F. Maybee)	2.25
10/9 By Cash, Labor, Sowing Rye	14.00
Jan 6, 33 By Labor (Reggie)	9.15
4-18-33 By Labor	14.55
11-25-33 By gathering corn 294 bu.	8.85
12-2-33 By Butchering	
April 34 By Sowing Sudan	<u>30.00</u>
	161.26
1/31/38	13.74

Paid in full 1/31/38

(Editor Note: We realize that total paid doesn't add up to what is showing)

He wrote on the back: Copy of billing for my mother's funeral, paid off over time mostly by labor, by her husband

(Reggie), her father (Frank) and Brother (Monta). Note the time of the final payment, August, 1930 to January, 1938.

Oh yes, times change. But do prices? It took some time to pay off my mother's death! Signed R.C.

I didn't get around to answering his note for a couple of months and my letter came back about the same time as the Dead Beat which we mailed to his mother-in-law. They lived next door to each other and he assisted in her care. I learned later from one of his daughters that R.C. died in January less than three weeks after mailing me his letter. The mother-in-law was moved to a nursing home and died in April. His daughter said that though her mother had been cremated and scattered in California. Her father's ashes will be brought back here in the fall to be scattered on his parent's graves. I wonder if when he mailed me this information about his mother he had a premonition of impending death?

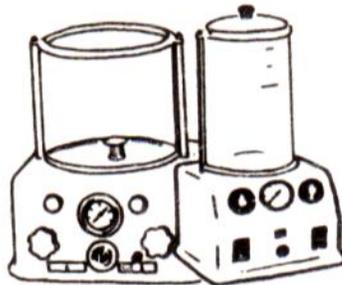
Do times change? According to my uncle's letterhead on the bill, "All Accounts Due First of Each Month. Interest Charged After 60 Days." No interest was ever charged and since no one had any money anyway, billing was probably not more than once or twice a year. Try selling that policy to the bank or corporate today.

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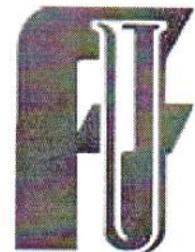
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The Pugh Funeral Home Story (Cont.)

(Continued from page 22)

phone from her bedside until about two weeks before her death.

Jeanette (Thomas) Salzman practically grew up in our store. When we closed the store she moved to the funeral home as bookkeeper and director's assistant. Alas, the USPS pays better. On the rural route she could change a tire from stop to start in five minutes. Jeanette still helps us out, but her tire changing time is not as good since she got better tires.



Betty & Lowell

In 1991 I took and passed the Texas exam. One of our kids and their family had moved to Texas. I thought we might sell out and move there too. The place didn't sell and the kids moved to Oklahoma. That didn't work out either.

Joanne Howard joined Betty and I in the funeral home in 1992. She got her

funeral director's license and with a degree in Psychology she was a great fit to start our aftercare program and the "Grief In the Workplace" study we developed. Joanne is now the funeral home manager/FDIC.

I worked in a small funeral home in a large city while going to school and a large funeral home in a small city later. Most of my funeral service career has remained in a tiny funeral home in a village so take any comments with a healthy



dose of provincial skepticism. Oh, by the way Joanne Howard and I started **The Dead Beat -The Caregiver's Soapbox** in 1999—we don't know yet if it will work out?????

J. D. & Shirley Martin Martin Funeral Home, Waldron, AR



J. D. and Shirley Martin, Martin Funeral Home, Waldron, Arkansas and J.D. and Shirley with Lowell Pugh at the reunion of the 5th AAA AW MBL recently held in Branson, Missouri.



J.D. & Shirley Martin, & Lowell Pugh

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2003 Cadillac Eureka 6-Dr (2)	Gray/Gray Ext/Gray Int	28,500 mi
2002 Cadillac Superior 6-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/ Blk Int	39,000 mi
1999 Cadillac Eureka 6-Dr	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	39,000 mi
1997 Cadillac M & M 6-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/Blue Int	68,000 mi
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