

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox

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



Early Spring, 2009

www.thedead-beat.com

Volume 9 Issue 6

Losses in Employees' Lives (Chapter from Grief Resolution for Co-Workers)

By Lowell Pugh and Joanne Howard

1. Death of Family Members or Co-Workers

When death occurs in a co-workers' family, other co-workers are usually expected to support their co-worker/friend during the mourning period. How long you can expect someone to mourn their loss and how they may react to their grief is pure conjecture. Companies or organizations usually provide "Funeral Leave" or "Special Leave" for workers who have a death in the immediate family. This special time off is commonly four days for deaths of spouses, children or parents of the worker. Less time is provided for siblings, in-laws and grandparents.

A. Natural Death

Co-workers that suffer the loss of a loved one may return to work while still in a state of shock. Grieving survivors may not begin to experience the effects of their grief for weeks or months after the event. Employers and co-workers should be aware of the problems that bereaved people may experience over time and provide support accordingly. Physical evidence of grief may include: impaired decision making, motivational problems, confusion, illnesses, alcohol and drug use, and absenteeism.⁽¹⁰⁾

Management must recognize that the death of a co-worker may occur at any time. "When all natural causes are taken into account, approximately 20 to 25 percent of all Americans died suddenly, defined as unexpected death within a few hours of onset of symptoms in person neither hospitalized nor homebound."⁽¹⁹⁾

Add the leading causes of work-related deaths as listed by OSHA:

1. Motor-vehicle accidents on the job
2. Machine-related accidents
3. Homicide
4. Falls
5. Being struck by falling objects
6. Electrocution

and you should realize that it is very unrealistic to think that death will not occur in your workplace.

B. Workplace Violence

The exploding phenomena of workplace violence is prompting even small firms to consider security and contingency planning today. Everyone wants to avoid workplace violence from the humanitarian point of view. From the business standpoint the monetary losses can be substantial. Business is lost and productivity is at a standstill while cleaning up and repairing damage. The physical and psychological trauma to employees may have long lasting effects.

♦ The employee of a convenience store, a young woman, was **murdered** at work by her husband who then committed **suicide**. Three months later we asked the owner what his greatest challenge was in the aftermath of the tragedy. "The magnitude of the clean up," he replied. After the removal of the bodies the entire inventory was removed and

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Clear Creek Coach – a distinctive tribute to those who have passed before us—See Page 16 for article

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Amy Howard Art Gallery



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.



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Mortuary Muse*

*to think or consider deeply; meditate
By Lowell

We price direct cremation and direct burial as close as their circumstances permit. There are several cemeteries nearby with minimum charges and no outer receptacle requirements. There is also no zoning in our area. We hope that consumers that have traditionally buried their family will not change solely because of price. A recent event seemed to support that theory, but in the end there were unexpected complications.

A supposed next-of-kin contacted us for prices. We had previously served the family with modest traditional funeral home and committal services. The caller decided on direct burial since that had been the family custom and prices were

only a few hundred dollars apart.

Complications arose when we learned the deceased was in a hospital about 50 miles away and the caller was about 2,000 miles away with no intention of returning. The caller thought the deceased had a bank account and we merely needed to take a copy of the bill to the bank if we could not wait for the estate, if any, to be settled.

We explained that there was no way we could handle the service, but gave her other firms to contact and did some checking ourselves. The last time we spoke that day she said that everyone wanted cash or credit card upfront. In the meantime the hospital had contacted a local funeral home to remove the

body. She planned to contact the county the next day.

A generation ago it would have been unthinkable for us to decline a service or ask for all the money up front. As it turned out, it would have been unfortunate for us if we had agreed to take the case. We had failed to factor in the increased costs of transporting to a distant crematory or an over-size casket and grave required for a person the weight of the deceased.

Changing times, changing costs, changing sizes????

About the Author:

Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 105-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.

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Grubbs-Loyd Funeral Home Diana, Texas Chili Celebrities

Gail Parker who attends Morton Baptist Church and works for Grubbs-Loyd Funeral Home in Diana, Texas shared with us the last two winners of their church chili cook-off– Charlie Roberts won in 2008 and Jim Barry won this year. Last year was the first year the church had the chili cook-off and she felt it was neat that employees of Grubbs-Loyd had won both times.

These chili winners happened to be two semi-retired gentlemen who help at the funeral home. They help with visitations and funerals as needed. Since they both know a lot of people in their small town of Diana, it helps a lot during visitations. The people attending ceremonies at the funeral home like to see a familiar face in the crowd. Jim Barry retired from the U.S. Postal Service and Charlie Roberts retired as a butcher from Newsom's Grocery in Ore City. Both are married and spend time with their grandchildren. They are both members of the Morton Baptist Church.



Left to right, Jim Barry, who is this year's winner and Charlie Roberts, last year's winner. Shown here with pictures when they won.

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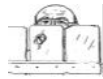
Brian R. Gardner, owner, announces the opening of his Columbia Cremation Care Center in Columbia, Missouri. He realizes that choosing a firm to handle your cremation needs is an important decision. You need a crematory that is professional, provides quality service in a timely manner and maintains the highest level of ethical integrity. The facility offers all of this plus a state of the art crematory so that your cremation can be ready in as little as three hours. All you need to do is notify them that you need this service and then you can send your driver and have him wait. They don't have to make that second trip with a great cost savings to you in time and fuel. Brian feels that cremation is his business, not a sideline. The business offers "Funeral Director" business hours: 24/7/365. Every cremation case includes free storage (up to four days) in their walk in cooler. They can also accommodate a brief viewing prior to the beginning of the cremation process. They welcome tours of their facilities at any time since you want to be able to tell families first hand what the facility is like that will be handling the cremation of their loved one. Call Brian Gardner for cost information at 573-874-3635.

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Colleagues Lost or Found!!!

(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

Among the death notices are two individuals that had considerable impact on my professional career—Norman Thompson and Jack Parker.

Norman was a full-fledged member of the group I call, "The Greatest Generation of Funeral Directors." He never owned a funeral home, but for 55 years and under six different owners, he was the Konantz Funeral Home in Lamar, Missouri. I never thought of Norman as a competitor. He was always there to help. Norman and his wife Loeta raised their family and served their profession and community to the fullest. We will miss you Norman.



Jack Parker was the son of Parker Mortuary founder, Steve Parker, in Joplin, Missouri. I became acquainted with Jack at the old Saint Louis College of Mortuary Science in 1952. Jack was in the class ahead of me and our time there overlapped for three months. We lived at the same boarding house and Jack furnished me transportation back to southwest Missouri on occasional weekends along with a lot of encouragement. He was definitely an older, sophisticated man of the world with a superior intellect and keen wit. I was a green kid from the sticks and somewhat intimidated by Jack's abilities, but he was always kind to me and I appreciated it. Jack didn't stay in the profession as long as many do (probably that superior intellect showing again) but he and his TV personality wife Carol have certainly had an impact in Joplin. Jack Parker will be missed.



The trades and internet bloggers have discussed the pros and cons of refreshments/hospitality food in funeral homes. I understand that five eastern states forbid it. Elsewhere local law, custom or business policy dictates. I have not seen or heard anyone mention one of the most obvious benefits. Funeral home staff members may enjoy some cool snacks and leftovers for a couple of days.



About the Author: Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 105-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.

Cautionary Note

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA) aimed at protecting children from hazardous materials requires that books published before 1985 not be accessible to children under 12 years old. Books published before 1985 may contain lead in the ink. The same rule requires that all children's toys be free of lead and plastic softening components. All children's items that are not tested or certified to be free of harmful products should be removed from any child play area in your facility. These items may not be donated to charity, thrift stores or given away. This applies to all items including clothing that may be used by a child under 12 years. For precise information contact your attorney, association or congressman. We just read it in the newspaper.

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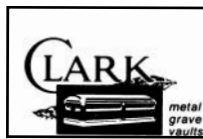
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After-Thoughts *By Joanne Howard*

One of my daily activities is to read the **Daily Guideposts 2009**. I'm moved on a regular basis by the different insights that are presented. As I was contemplating what to talk about, I read several days that seemed relevant to mention.

On March 11 Roberta Messner actually talked about funerals. She mentioned how her mother had a tradition when anyone died. She would prepare food (her famous potato salad and pie) and would always go to the viewing. Ms. Messner



was the oldest child so it was always her responsibility to go to the grieving people and express their sorrow for the loss and to show empathy.

After Ms. Messner had grown up she didn't continue the tradition. But when she lost her father, she thought no one would show up to the ceremony because they had to work during the day. She was shocked by how many people showed up to show empathy and re-evaluated her lack of showing the personal touch when just sending a card or flowers.

I thought about that in reference to today's children. Do we instill in our children the empathy for those who have lost loved ones by physically attended visitations or funerals? Parents always seem to worry about their children seeing the dead person. But shouldn't we be teaching empathy and less fear of dead bodies?

Continuing in that same week of devotions it was stated, "*Concentrate on the present, look with faith toward the future and release the pain of the past.*" in other words looking forward instead of back from March 14, 2009 by Debbie Macomber.

This struck a chord with me in reference to many things, but it rings very true in

relation to dealing with loss. As you deal with loss just getting through the present time is quite a challenge. Your hope that the future will be better obviously comes from faith. Then as the loss becomes more in the past you are able to release the pain.

This may be why support groups are good. They help you deal with the present, you see people



who have been able to release the pain of the past and also recognize that they are the potential of the future of making it through the pain. But maybe this is why you can only go to support groups for so long, except if you feel called to lead them for others. After so long it seems that the pain from the past keeps surfacing in the present and you can't look forward to the future in the groups as you see and hear of the new people's situations.

Finally, March 13 by Scott Walker got my attention too. It would have been my deceased daughter Amy's 25th birthday. In relation to someone's life being changed by a tragic accident, it said, "*We can be sure that a God of infinite love never causes our tragedies and losses. But God is always the God of another chance. God is faithful to create order out of chaos, goodness out of tragedy, resurrection from our most agonizing crucifixions.*" Now the comfort in this.... There must have been something good from the death of my daughter????? Who knows all of the results of the deaths? I know the impact in my own life, but what about all the other people that my daughter had touched. How were they affected by her death?

I was thinking about the effect that my youngest daughter's death had on her sister. I wondered, "What would they have been like if neither of the deaths had occurred?" Who knows? But a mother can wonder.

As usually happens at this time of the year, I went to a meeting last week that decides on how the high school scholarships are dispersed. There is a scholarship in memory of our two daughters and my husband and I present this one at the high school graduation along with others. I usually attend the meeting that interviews the students interested in getting the scholarships. I have done this for many years due to serving the PTO when I was the secretary when my girls were in school and now in reference to the memorial scholarship.

Going into the school always brings back memories dealing with my girls. All the times we attended functions or just picked them up. I remember when my oldest daughter actually went before this same scholarship board before she graduated. I couldn't sit on the board that time, but I could understand what she had to go through. So in reference to the quote about goodness coming out of tragedy, I guess the memorial scholarship is one good thing. But it still makes me a bit sad even if we may be helping someone's future.

As funeral directors we deal with death on a very regular basis, we must not forget about the importance of the physical presence of those showing respect, necessity of remembering the past, present and future of those that we serve. And finally trying to help those we serve understand that even in their tragedies that something good may result from their loss.



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.

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Suhor Industries Funeral Services Presents \$10,000 Grant to Children's Hospital Foundation



(L to R) Emily McNellis, Julie Headley, Leah Asher, Bob Flory, David Edmiston, Lance Ray, Geri Nelson, Claudia Schmitt, Kathleen Reeves, Vanessa Owen

DENVER, MARCH 2009 – The Wilbert Foundation and Suhor Industries Funeral Services (Denver) have awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Children's Hospital Foundation in Aurora. The check was presented on January 28 by Suhor Industries Regional Vice President Lance Ray.

The funds will be used by the hospital's Pastoral Care Department to produce a special video about children, teens, and young adults who have lost a sibling. The video will comfort both parents and surviving siblings as they come to terms with their grief and realize that their reactions and feelings are normal steps on the path to healing.

The Pastoral Care Department serves approximately 1,000 dying, grieving, or ailing children each year. The department's Colors of Healing Bereavement Program also supports as many as 270 families annually.

Formed by Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. in September 2002, the Wilbert Foundation provides crucial funds and resources for children and their families coping with the trauma of grief, death, or preparation for surgery.

Since its inception, the foundation has distributed over \$500,000 in grants and funded the curriculum for the country's most comprehensive training program for pediatric chaplains. The Wilbert Foundation remains diligent in its journey to build an endowment fund of \$1,000,000. To learn more about the Wilbert Foundation, please call Terry Whitlock at 1-888-WILBERT.



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Life Changes

By Ken Doka

"Even watching television now is different." When we think of grief, we often reflect on the flood of emotions that follow a loss. Yet, as Marge noted a significant loss changes life.

Sometimes the changes are great. The death of a spouse, for example, may make us return to work or even change homes. While such major changes are less common, it may not be unusual for relationships with family or friends to change. Sometimes, we may find certain friends or family unsupportive. Other times, we may be pleasantly surprised that others, who perhaps we didn't know well, or didn't even like as much, are there for us in ways we would have never imagined. We may even develop new friendships. Marge, for example, bonded to a number of other women she had met in a surviving spouse support group. At the very least, we may have to take on new roles, and even learn new skills.

These changes may follow other losses as well. The death of a parent may mean that the old family home, with all its comfort and memories, is sold. The celebration of the holidays may change. Relations with siblings may now be different once a parent dies. When a child dies, we may give up activities once shared and treasured. One parent shared with me that when her son died, she "not only lost her son, but simultaneously all his friends."

Sometimes the changes are subtle. As Marge noted, the very quality of life is now changed. It all seems different now—even to watch TV or eat alone.

So how can we cope? The first thing to remember is that we should try to pace our changes. Our loss itself is a major change. Other changes simply add to the stress. If we can, we should avoid any additional major changes in our life for the first year.

We should take care not to isolate ourselves from support. If others we once looked to for support now seem unavailable, we should examine ourselves. Maybe we are less than forthcoming about our own needs. Perhaps we are hiding behind a mask of strength that friends and family seem reluctant to challenge. If they simply are not there, we may need to seek out others; perhaps in a support group or in involvement in other activities.

We need to acknowledge that things are now different, perhaps even more difficult. It may help to assess how much our life has changed. Doing so may help us realize the extent of change. It may help to assess our own coping strengths as well. What do we do well? What is really difficult? Knowing our own coping strengths and weaknesses can help us identify areas where we can use other's help.

We also can assess the times and events that seem to cause the most

worry or are the most difficult. Once we do that, we can find ways around it. For Marge, Sunday afternoons were the worst. She realized that was the time that she and her husband were always together - that was their time. Once she realized that, Marge always made plans to be with others during that time. Sometimes she would visit with her children while other times she would go out with friends.

Life does change when someone we love dies. We cannot change that. But, we may be able to control the way it changes. Over time, life may be different—but it will surely be well worth living.

This article was originally printed in *Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement*, published by Hospice Foundation of America. More information about *Journeys*

can be found at www.hospicefoundation.org or by calling 800-854-3402 and is published monthly by the Hospice Foundation of America, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20009. 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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Editor Note: My apologies if anyone has been offended by jokes in this column

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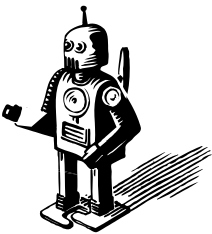
As the bus stopped and it was her turn to get on, she became aware that her skirt was too tight to allow her leg to come up the height of the first step of the bus. Slightly embarrassed and with a quick smile to the bus driver, she reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little, thinking that this would give her enough slack to raise her leg. She tried to take the step, only to discover that she couldn't. So, a little more embarrassed, she once again reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little more, and for the second time attempted the step. Once again, much to her chagrin, she could not raise her leg. With a little smile to the driver, she again reached behind to unzip a little more and again was unable to take the step. About this time, a large Texan who was standing behind her picked her up easily by the waist and placed her gently on the step of the bus. She went ballistic and turned to the would-be Samaritan and yelled, "How dare you touch my body! I don't even know who you are!" The Texan smiled and drawled, "Well, ma'am normally I would agree with you, but after you unzipped my fly three times, I kinda figured we was friends."



Lie Detector

John was a salesman's delight when it came to any kind of unusual gimmick. His wife Marsha had long ago given up trying to get him to change. One day John came home with another one of his unusual purchases. It was a robot that John claimed was actually a lie detector. It was 5:30 that afternoon when Tommy, their 11-year-old son, returned home from school. Tommy was over two hours late. "Where have you been? Why are you over two hours late getting home?" asked John. "Several of us went to

the library to work on an extra credit project," said Tommy. The robot then walked around the table and slapped Tommy, knocking him completely out of his chair. "Son," said John, "this robot is a lie detector, now tell us where you really were after school." "We went to Bobby's house and watched a movie," said Tommy. "What did you watch?" asked Marsha. "The Ten Commandments," answered Tommy. The robot went around to Tommy and once again slapped him, knocking him off his chair once more. With his lip quivering, Tommy got up, sat down and said, "I am sorry I lied. We really watched a tape called 'Sex Queen.'" "I am ashamed of you son," said John. "When I was your age, I never lied to my parents." The robot then walked around to John and delivered a whack that nearly knocked him out of his chair. Marsha doubled over in laughter, almost in tears and said, "Boy, did you ever ask for that one! You can't be too mad with Tommy. After all, he is your son!" With that, the robot immediately walked around to Marsha and knocked her out of her chair.



Comments

"Your publication is a treat to read. In fact, our directors usually have to come and take it off of my desk because I like to read every page of it!" Marla Mercer Cole, Mercer Adams Funeral Service

"I just wanted to share with you that my husband and I really enjoy the Dead Beat. We are from Wood River, NE. He is a retired funeral director and I am a retired infection control nurse. He always reads the "chuckles" first and shares some of the jokes with his friends at the coffee chop. We both read the articles and I have really appreciated you sharing your experiences after the loss of your beautiful daughters. I can't begin to imagine how you have been able to get through this but you bring joy to others with your publication and your thoughts. I appreciated the picture that your daughter, Amy, had done in this issue. Keep on sharing them with the readers. God bless you and your husband and I know you get your strength from HIM." - Mary Ann Apfel

"Can you advise how I should go about subscribing to your fine editorial example? <grin> Rob Timberman, Professional Escorts, Inc.

"I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the "Afterthoughts" this issue. It is so true..... I appreciate reading your little paper very much." Reader from Florida.

Simple Home Remedies

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop.
2. Avoid arguments with the Mrs. about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
3. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.
4. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
5. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives; then you'll be afraid to cough.
6. You only need two tools in life—WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
7. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
8. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.



Daily Thought:

SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES; NOT REALLY GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT THEY BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN PUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS.

ALL PUNS INTENDED

1. Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
2. A set of jumper cables walk into a bar. The bartender says,

(Continued on page 11)

Chuckles (Cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

- "I'll serve you, but don't start anything.
3. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."
 4. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"
 5. Doc, I can't stop singing, "The Green, Green Grass of Home." "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?" "Well, It's Not Unusual."
 6. Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.
 7. An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
 8. Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.
 9. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.
 10. I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.
 11. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office, and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."
 12. A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named, "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they call him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."
 13. Matatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him (Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good)..... A super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.
 14. And finally, there was the person who showed fourteen different puns and with hope at least ten of the puns made you laugh. No pun in ten did.

How do you like that Memorial Stone?

Tom died. His will provided \$40,000 for an elaborate funeral. As the last guests departed the affair, his wife Sarah turned to her oldest and dearest friend. "Well, I'm sure Tom would be pleased," she said. "I'm sure you're right," replied Jody, who lowered her voice and leaned in close. "How much did this really cost?" "All of it," said Sarah, "Forty thousand." "No!" Jody exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$40,000?" Sarah answered, "The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the church. Whiskey, wine and snacks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone." Jody computed quickly, "\$34,500 for a Memorial Stone? My gosh, how big is it?" "Four and a half carats."

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A golfer was sitting on a bench by the first tee, waiting for his partner to show up for their weekly round, when a beautiful, buxom redhead approached and uncovered her clubs. Ten minutes later the partner showed up to see his friend lying on the ground, unconscious and with a black eye. "What the heck happened to you?" asked the partner, waking his friend. "Do you see that beautiful redhead on the next fairway?" His partner looked up. "Yeah, I see her." "She came up to the first tee and uncovered her clubs. All I said was 'nice set'!"



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F-W-D Hearse – Blk/Blk/Blk
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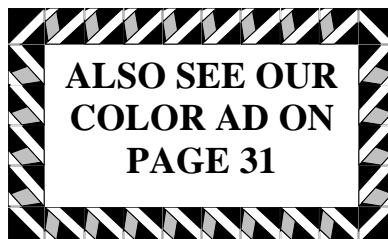


UC07-032 – 1998 Cadillac Eureka 6-
Door – Slvr/Slvr/Blu – Runs Good – Nice
Car – Needs Tires – Nice
Interior – Good Paint
DALLAS.....\$5,100.



UC08-035 – 1999 Cadillac Eureka
6-Door – Slvr/Slvr/Blu – Needs Motor –
Nice Interior – Good Paint
DALLAS.....\$3,500.

UC08-097 – 1983 Cadillac Superior 3
-WAY – Collector's Item – Needs
transmission – Blk/Slvr/Blu
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UC07-079 – 1996 Cadillac Federal 6-
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DENVER\$1,900.

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues

IOWA

Jeanne A. Popadiuk, 78, of Farley, died Jan. 15, 2009. She graduated with high distinction from St. Louis College of Mortuary Science and was the first woman in Iowa to do so. After graduating she worked with her father, Leo Sanner at the Sanner Funeral Home in Farley which is now the Reiff Funeral Home. She left the mortuary business and spent much of her life working as a bookkeeper and controller and raising her eight children after moving to California. Her services were handled by Weaver Mortuary in Beaumont, California.

KANSAS

Claude M. DeVorss, 94, of Wichita, passed away Jan. 13, 2009. He founded the DeVorss Music Company and later founded DeVorss Mortuary.

Frank A. Harrington, 83, of Bonner Springs, died Dec. 14, 2008. A U.S. Navy veteran of WWII was a previous owner and partner at the Alden-Harrington Funeral Home retiring in 1983.

Vernon Lee Kufahl, of Wheaton passed away March 28, 2009. He was former owner of Kufahl Funeral Home who handled the arrangements.

Charles E. Wallace, 86, of Hutchinson passed away Feb. 8, 2009. He had been the Rush County Clerk at La Crosse until he became accountant in 1968 and retired in 1987. He most recently was assistant funeral director for Elliott Mortuary in Hutchinson.



Clarence L. Webb, 91, longtime Independence Funeral Director died. He served in the U. S. Navy during WWII. He graduated from Washburn University and St. Louis College of Mortuary Science. He joined his parents in the operation of Webb Funeral Home and was active in the merger of Webb Funeral Home and Rodrick Funeral Home in 1976. He was past president of The Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.

Joe Williams, a former owner and employee of Baxter Vault Company of Baxter Springs, Kansas, passed away March 16, 2009. He had been working part time in the office and setting markers since his retirement.

MISSOURI



Ann Mason, 73, of Springfield died Feb. 20, 2009. She was the wife of Lee Mason and together founded Mason Chapel and Mortuary in Joplin, MO in 1960. Her arrangements were handled by Walnut Lawn Funeral Home in Springfield, MO.

Silvia Mayer, 91 of Ladue died January 17, 2009. She was co-owner of the Mayer Funeral Home in St. Louis, MO, where she had been a funeral director for 30 years.

Jack Parker, 84, of Joplin died March 23, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army as a Ranger during WWII in England, France and Germany. Following service he graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, MO and earned a degree in Mortuary Science from St. Louis University in 1952. He had been a co-owner of Steve Parker Mortuary. Services were handled by Parker Mortuary in Joplin.



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

MISSOURI (Cont.)

Thelma M. Shewmake, 75, of Granby passed away March 29, 2009. She was a licensed funeral director and co-owner of the Shewmake Funeral Home in Granby until 1970. Arrangements were under the direction of Clark Funeral Home.

Carolyn J. Staggs, 64 of Bloomfield passed away March 11, 2009. She was co-owner of Chiles-Cooper Funeral Home who handled the service arrangements.



Norman L. Thompson, 80 of Lamar died Feb. 11, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army and then became a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He attended Drury and SMS College and graduated from the Old Kansas City College of Mortuary Science. He has worked over 50 years at the Konantz-Warden Funeral Home in Lamar. He had worked for various owners. Services were handled by Konantz-Warden Funeral Home.

OKLAHOMA

Jack Dennis Fox, 66, of Joy, died Feb. 1, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army and graduated from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service with an Associates Degree in Funeral Science. He owned and operated Fox Funeral Home of Davis from 1979 until he retired in 1996. He was a member of the Oklahoma State Funeral Directors Association-District Governor, National Funeral Directors Association and a member of the Golden Rule. Services were entrusted to Hale's Funeral Home in Davis.



Jack David "Jack" Trout, 87, of Ponca City died January 23, 2009. Along with his father and brother he founded the E.M. Trout & Sons Funeral Home in 1936 which they owned and operated for 41 years. He also was a member of the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Association.

TEXAS

Gary L. Adcock, of Abilene died March 13, 2009. He was regional manager of Security National Life Insurance Co. and husband of Joann Adcock. Services were conducted by the Hamil Family Funeral Home of Abilene.

Richard Herold Kitchens, of Breckenridge, died Feb. 28, 2009. He was father of Lance Kitchens, father-in-law of Sharon Melton-Kitchens, owners of Melton-Kitchens Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home of Childress.

Arley Clifton (A.C.) Martin, of Dallas passed away Feb. 9, 2009. He was the father of Steve Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, TFDA, President, NTFDA and owner of Stone Mortuary Service. Private services were held.

David "Eugene" Ramsey, Sr., of Pearland, died March 8, 2009. He was the father of David E. Ramsey, Jr. of Crowder Funeral Home which handled the services.

Robert "Bob" Roark, of Ft. Worth, died Feb. 27, 2009. He was the husband of Genevieve Roark and father of Nancy Roark Rieman of Roark Casket Company. Services were directed by Greenwood Funeral Home of Ft. Worth.

Mary Ann Shriver, of Slaton, died Feb. 14, 2009. She was the mother of Bill Shriver of Aurora Casket Co., Lubbock. Her services were handled by Englund's Funeral Service in Slaton.

Beverly Gray Stewardson, of Brownwood, died March 18, 2009. She was the mother of Sam Stewardson, General Manager of Davis-Morris Funeral Home which handled the arrangements.





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Clear Creek Coach

By Brenda Guffey



Clear Creek Coach was established in April, 2008, its mission is to provide alternative transportation for families wanting to pay special tribute to the loss of loved ones. After the first service we realized there was a lot more to this endeavor than just paying tribute to the loss of a loved one. The hearse brought smiles to families and friends as they celebrate their loved one's life.

Clear Creek Coach's story actually began last March after attending a funeral in Kansas City, Don Guffey of Schell City, Missouri had picked up a picture of a Tombstone Motorcycle Hearse. He was love-struck with the stylish looks and obvious workmanship of the Tombstone Hearse that were evident in the picture. He tucked the picture away in his wallet.

Having been a carpenter for over 30 years thoughts of building his own hearse began to take root. Don felt sure he had the knowledge and ingenuity to build a motorcycle hearse. Yet the quality Tombstone offered was evident even in the small photo furtively tucked away. Don kept the card in his wallet for nearly two weeks, before discussing the idea with his wife.

Having been a motorcycle rider since the age of sixteen, the thought of a motorcycle hearse was not a novelty. But a special tribute he would have liked to have paid for friends whom he had lost earlier in life. Don did not see the hearse strictly for bikers, but anyone wanting to memorialize the passing of someone respected in life.

He thought of his own father, having fought in WWII, this would be a tribute to him to show how much he respected his father, and appreciated the sacrifices his dad had made for him. Then he started



thinking about me (the writer and wife), my own father and brothers who were veterans who would love to have this hearse for their services. The more Don thought about the loss of family and friends who might pass before his own time came, the more the decision became clear. What a wonderful way to show how much a person had meant and to celebrate the life that once had been. We really didn't talk much more about purchasing the hearse; the decision was made.

Next came the facts, costs, and questions, etc. Don had a chauffeur's license, but what else was needed... Insurance...licenses...attorney...etc. How do we reach folks? Would funeral homes accept us? Those were our two biggest questions remaining. After all of the research had been done we took possession July, 2008 and are now available for hire.

Some details about the equipment. The Tombstone Company has been in business since 2001, their original concept was over 10 years old and they are on their Series III. The styling of the coach is modern yet reminiscent of days gone by. The coach is pulled behind a 2008 Harley-Davidson Road King Classic, which has been triked to accommodate the weight of the coach and a regular casket or over-size casket.

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Lobby with monument shop and flower shop and fish tank



One of two chapels and below- kitchen area provided for family



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The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox

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Losses in Employees' Lives (Cont.) **(Chapter from Grief Resolution for Co-Workers)**

(Continued from page 1)

the interior cleaned and redecorated before restocking and reopening. The down time for the business was about a week. Then he paused and said, "Girls in blue gray cars...she drove a blue gray car." For several weeks if a woman in a blue gray car drove in, he would think of the dead co-worker.

- ◆ "Companies also need **trauma plans** to cover what to do when violence occurs. Planning after the fact is rarely effective. Train a rapid-response team to intervene in a crisis and to debrief people afterward, experts advise. Have a method for monitoring people during the emotional turmoil after the event and during the recovery phase, so that the company can make mental health referrals if necessary." "...In the aftermath of a violent incident, the survivors—including those who were injured, those who were targeted but missed, witnesses, co-workers, family members, and other people in the organization—can be emotionally devastated and may suffer from post traumatic stress."⁽⁴⁾

C. Anticipated Grief

Most deaths in business are unanticipated as in sudden illnesses, accidents, or workplace violence. Co-workers do not have the opportunity to prepare themselves for these unfortunate events.

Sometimes a worker may have a long terminal illness and co-workers experience anticipatory grief. As Therese A. Rando, Ph.D. writes in her book, **How to Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies**, "...the difference between a sudden death and one that has been anticipated is not in the amount of pain that the survivor suffers but in the impact it has upon that person's ability to cope and to go about the rest of her life."

When the co-worker is confronted with the sudden death of a friend or colleague the capacity for normal thought processes and physical functioning may be severely impaired. Before the survivors can even begin the recovery period they must absorb the reality of the death. With anticipatory death there often is a gradual transition and time to prepare for the changes that are going to occur. An excellent example of this transition was told to us by Kenny, a parcel delivery driver.

- ◆ "A number of years ago the local facility was much smaller and most of the drivers were young and from similar backgrounds

(Continued on page 19)

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Losses in Employees' Lives (Cont.)
(Chapter from Grief Resolution for Co-Workers)

(Continued from page 18)

(farm). They were a very close knit group. One of the drivers was stricken with **terminal cancer**. In the succeeding months the workers held benefits, picnics, horseshoe tournaments, and other events to assist the young man and his family with their expenses during the latter stages of the illness. Several of the workers contributed 20 to 30 dollars out of their paychecks every week to the co-worker."

Apparently the driver's grief was reconciled during this anticipatory period as he stated that he had no particular memories of the post death period. Today he makes deliveries to the deceased co-worker's son and they remain friends.

Anticipatory grief can involve a complex set of processes including , awareness of and gradual accommodation to your co-worker's dying, emotional processes, thought processes, and planning for the future. The quality of true support received or given to either the work family or the actual family may depend on whether the loss was perceived to be sudden or anticipated. The work family may be aware of a long term illness, but totally unprepared for a sudden death caused by another catalyst.

Remembering that grief may be a response to any number of misfortunes that an individual or group experiences should help

when dealing with grieving people. In the business realm anticipatory grief could be the result of the poor health and expected death of the business itself. Both owners and workers could be grieving over loss of their livelihood.

The issues that arise during anticipatory grief are explained in depth in the aforementioned book by Therese A. Rando., Ph.D. A copy of this book is recommended for your grief resource Library.

2. Other Types of Losses

The central theme of co-worker grief is that everyone suffers losses and the grief for those losses affects the way we feel and act. Though we are concentrating on co-worker death, you should be aware that many workers may experience similar feelings and responses for losses other than death.

A. Relocation—Employees

Managers should be prepared for their work force to grieve in the same manner for a co-worker who is relocated or discharged in addition to those who have died. The unique qualities that a worker brings to a particular job disappear when that person is gone regardless of the circumstances.

B. Relocated—Business

A related aspect occurs when the entire plant relocates. Workers who relocate are faced with new challenges on the job and the home front and may be grieving lost co-worker relationships. Relocating to a new city means new schools and churches, replacing loyalties to sports teams, joining civic

(Continued on page 21)

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Mini Chuckle



When my son, Bryan, was 8 years old, my husband and I took him and his six-year old sister, Stacey, up in our airplane for a ride. We were flying through some clouds when we noticed there was a slight crack in the upper portion of the windshield. I asked my husband, "What do you think could have caused that crack?" Bryan quickly responded, "I think an angel's foot accidentally kicked it." Rene, Virginia
From Crossings.Com Chuckles

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Losses in Employees' Lives (Cont.) (Chapter from Grief Resolution for Co-Workers)

(Continued from page 19)

groups, and learning the unique features of a new environment. Finding housing, new schools, daycare, and medical facilities present families with additional tasks. The workers left behind face many of the same challenges while striving for re-employment or retraining.

Management may face the additional problem of dealing with sabotage by those who are grieving for the loss of their jobs. In one instance reported to us, the company had such severe sabotage problems that their relocation schedule and expense had to be revised.

- ♦ The maintenance supervisor of a manufacturing plant that was in the process of **relocating** from Iowa to another state related this story: Building and machinery sabotage occurred several times during the last few weeks of operation. When it came time to break the machinery down for relocation additional sabotage was discovered. Other employees however, came to say goodbye to their machines and cried about their loss. (16)

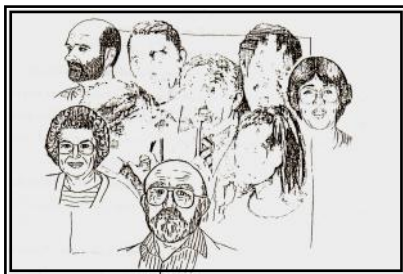
4. Divorce

Divorce is a frequent cause of co-worker grief. When two people marry they seldom think about how the marriage will end. Death or divorce are the realities of ending a marriage. People who divorce may be grieving for their lost relationships or shattered dreams just as intensively as one whose spouse died. The divorced co-worker is usually denied a vehicle for grief resolution (funeral ceremonies, sympathy, etc.) that survivors of a dead spouse may be afforded. Divorced persons may suffer from disenfranchised grief.

If you are interested in reading the whole book that this chapter came from contact: H. L. Pugh and Associates, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748- 1-800-575-2611 for ordering information or e-mail editor@thedeat-beat.com.

References:

- (4) Bensimon, H.F., "Violence in the Workplace" **Training and Development**, Vol. 48, No. 1, 1994, pgs 27-32.
- (10) Doka, K.J., **Disenfranchised Grief: Recognizing Hidden Sorrow**, New York, Lexington Books, 1989.
- (16) Howard, J. & Pugh, L., Pugh & Associates, Personal Interview, 1994, 1995.



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Interesting Interruption at Funeral

A family shared with the Greenville staff writer Paul Alongi that she was at her uncle's funeral and something very strange happened. A woman danced in front of the service, waved a wand around the casket, opened the lid, laid her hands on the deceased's head and struck the body with a wand according to the Lauren's County Sheriff's Office. No one knew who she was or why. She took flowers from the top of the casket and threw them at the family before leaving. She was eventually picked up by the deputies and they asked her why and she said, "she felt that it was the right thing to do at the time." She acknowledged she didn't know anyone at the funeral. The immediate family didn't see it being in another room. STRANGE!!!!!!!

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“Dear Counselor....”

By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor,

What are the legal ramifications to the orphan contracts of NPS where people have been paying since all the problems started and then they're told it's not going to be covered?

Why can't they tell who the orphan contracts are now?

The NPS “orphan contracts” are those preneed contracts for which NPS never purchased an insurance policy. This is primarily a Missouri problem because NPS sold insurance funded preneed contracts in most states. For Missouri, NPS sold trust-funded contracts, or rolled a funeral home's trust into a NPS trust (that subsequently purchased insurance). Apparently, NPS would defer instructions to the trustee to purchase insurance until the contract was paid in full.

Consequently, the consumers who are at the greatest risk of having an orphaned contract are those who purchased a NPS contract within the past few years and are paying for the contract with installments.

NPS and its sister insurance companies were put into receivership by the Texas Department of Insurance. The special deputy receiver appointed to administer the NPS assets and liabilities negotiated coverage with the National Organization of Life and Health Guaranty Associations (NOLHGA). However, this coverage is dependent upon a policy (or sufficient evidence of the intent to purchase a policy) having been issued for the consumer's preneed contract. In the absence of a policy, the guaranty association will not honor a claim, and the consumer will be forced to make a claim with the special deputy receiver.

In negotiating the NOLHGA coverage, the special deputy receiver may not have realized that consumers were paying on NPS contracts for which there was no corresponding insurance. It is unclear whether the special deputy receiver knows how many orphaned contracts exist. The Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association has been active in pursuing this issue. Consumers who are paying in on a NPS contract should contact their funeral home for more information. If the funeral home is an Association member, additional information will be available to the funeral home.



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.prenedresource.com.

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 pictures were provided by Bill Murray.



Shackelford Funeral Directors
Savannah, TN
Est. 1933



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

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Mackintyre's Church

"Following tragedy, a boy's dream comes true"



Photo in Rural Missouri
Stacey Garton places flowers beside
her son's headstone next to cross and
church.

On Friday, September 12, 2008 things were not going well at the Garton house. The alarm clock hadn't gone off and Mackintyre, the 9-year-old son was not feeling good and by 7:15 a.m. he had died of an aneurysm.

The family is trying to fulfill Mackintyre's dream, his legacy will be...Mackintyre's Church. He had been talking about building a church on his grandpa's farm since he had

been six. No one really knows where or when this

idea for building a church came from but he talked about it all the time. His magnetic personality was especially present at his church when he sang, "Amazing Grace."

So days after his death they started clearing the land for his church. The structure is a 24 feet by 36 feet building with a red roof, old church bell and sign stating where the pastor should park and standing on a hill in a meadow. It is available for anyone who needs the solace it offers. It lies on an area he would have inherited from his grandpa. Friends donated time, money and materials for this one room church hopefully completed by spring of this year. The family plans to build a playground area as well as a large covered picnic pavilion.

Mackintyre loved being at his grandparents farm and he cared about many people. On his last birthday a month before his death, his grandma asked him what he wanted... "A fireproof, waterproof combination lock box."

After getting it for his birthday he was always putting things in and taking them out, as if he wasn't quite sure what was most important. "He put the shell casings from a funeral where a friend was given a 21-gun salute, family photos, a compass, a barometer, some old keys, a battery-powered screwdriver, his wallet and a driver's license he'd made for himself in case he got stopped while driving the car in our yard," his mom said.

Nearly a month after his death, the ashes of Mackintyre Kendal McDill Garton were laid to rest next to a 22-foot wooden cross on the hill beside the nearly completed church in his fireproof, waterproof, combination lock box. As his mom said, "Because that's where you put your most precious things."



Photo in Rural Missouri
Mackintyre
Kendal McDill
Garton
Provided courtesy of
the Garton
Family

As far as the church is concerned, they don't know why it was so important to him, but it's there for whoever will need it one day. "Until then, we want it to be a place of peace, happiness and joy for everyone. That's what Mackintyre would want."

Information from article in Rural Missouri, April, 2009
by Heather Berry.



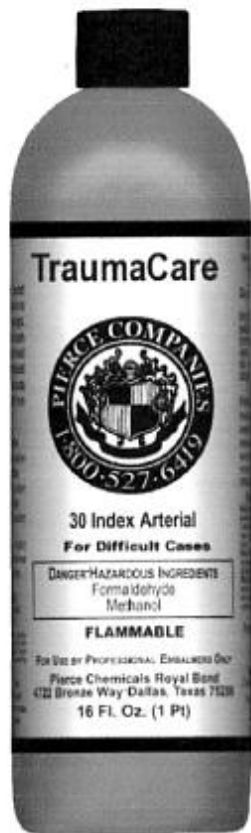
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Doric® Products invites you to visit our website at **doric-vaults.com** and check out our new look. The website features a fresh new layout with easy-to-use navigation menus. One of the most important changes you will see is the addition of our **Classic Metal Vault®** line of air-seal products. Simply click on the **PRODUCT LINES** button and then choose **CMV Vaults** from the secondary list of our product lines. You will be presented with images of our full CMV line including aluminum, porcelain, galvanized, textured and powder-coated vaults.

The **PRODUCT LINES** button also provides you with photos of our popular line of cremation urns and urn vaults. Among the products featured are the Executive Series® of cultured marble urn vaults and matching urns, tailored metal urns, concrete urn vaults, and metal air-seal urn vaults. Personalization has been added on both the vault and cremation lines of product. Scroll through our offerings of full-color carapace overlays as well as cut-vinyl appliques.

The **DEALER LOCATOR** tab has been tremendously improved. It is now easier than ever to locate your Doric Dealer. Simply select your state and county from the drop-down menus and a full listing of contact information is provided for the Doric Dealer servicing the area. Of course, we have left several of your favorite features available to you

such as the “Decision Book” button that provides resource information for those who are looking for additional information before making their final plans.

“Phase One” of our website update is now complete and we would like to hear your comments. Please feel free to send us an email from the site by clicking on the **CONTACT US** button.

Doric Products Inc. is proud to be involved with our family of manufacturing plants. Each Doric licensee is independently inspected and certified by a field inspector of the National Concrete Burial Vault Association (NCBVA). This certification ensures the consistent manufacturing of quality burial vaults that meet or exceed industry standards. Doric continues to be the only vault manufacturer that requires this independent audit.



Van Vorhees House– Davis Funeral Home-Hayes Funeral Home Guthrie, Oklahoma



Mrs. Jennie B. Van Vorhees came to Guthrie, Oklahoma with her husband, S. Koert on April 22, 1889 and almost immediately started a boarding house operation. Soon she became selective and established a “private boarding house” in the basement of the Bank of Commerce building on the

northeast corner of Oklahoma and Second Street.

Her early clientele was composed of prominent men who had not yet moved their families to Guthrie. Among them were the first territorial governor, George Steele; the district attorney, Horace Speed; and the territorial Supreme Court Judge, Edward B. Green. She acquired several other properties in 1892 and continued her boarding house at several locations before building a six-room, one story house at 117 East Noble and moved her business there.

In 1906-07 her business grew and she added a second story and her boarding house was considered the best in the city with waitresses assisting in the serving of meals.

In 1902 the corner lots were acquired by the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. They had planned to extend their lines north, tunneling under the roads to the property to build a station. The line, later acquired by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway, gave up the grandiose plans and sold the lots to Mrs. Van Vorhees in 1918.

The property was acquired in November, 1927 by Thomas H. Davis who operated Davis Funeral Home. He further remodeled the building to suit the needs of his business. The J.W. Altebaumer family moved from Talihina to Guthrie in 1972 and owned and operated the funeral home for many years.

For several years, the funeral home was corporate owned and operated. The building was vacant for a few years before the Altebaumer family acquired the property once again in February, 2008. A remodel of the building was completed in February, 2009. The funeral home will be owned and operated by Chuck and Lynnette Hayes (Altebaumer) and will operate under the name of Hayes Funeral Home.

Ponderisms

Submitted by H. Clay Atchison

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

Life is sexually transmitted.

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, “I think I’ll squeeze these dangly things and drink whatever comes out?”

If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?

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2002 Cadillac Superior Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/Gray Int	54,000 mi
2000 Cadillac Superior Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	19,000 mi
1998 Cadillac M & M Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/Blue Int	48,000 mi
1992 Cadillac Federal Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	24,000 mi
1992 Cadillac Federal Coach	Silv/Blk Top/Blue Int	62,000 mi
1990 Cadillac S & S Victoria	Blk/Blk Ext/Burg Int	72,700 mi

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2003 Cadillac Eureka 5-Dr 90"	Drk Blue Ext/Drk Blue Int	57,000 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
1996 Cadillac Superior 6-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/Black Int	78,500 mi

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As We Drive By

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These pictures provided by Bill Murray.



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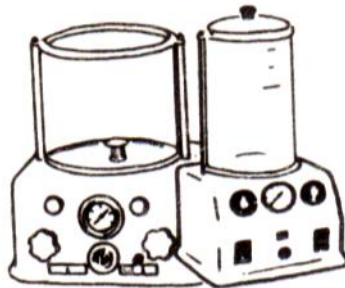


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Cemetery Escort Duty

By Anonymous

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 1655. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summer-time was as bad as ever—the heat and humidity at the same level—both too high.

I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 Cadillac Deville, looked factory new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace. An old woman got out so slowly I thought she was paralyzed; she had a can and a sheaf of flowers—about four or five bunches as best I could tell.

I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste, "She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like h... and I'm ready to get out of here right now!" But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in.

Kevin would lock the "In" gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time.

I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in Marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint.

"Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?"

She took long enough to answer. "Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days."

"My pleasure, ma'am." Well, it wasn't too much of a lie.

She looked again. "Marine, where were you stationed?"

"Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to '71."

She looked at me closer. "Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine. I'll be as quick as I can."

I lied a little bigger: "No hurry, ma'am."

She smiled and winked at me. "Son, I'm 85 years old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time."

"Yes, ma'am. At your service."

She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flowers out of my arms and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944.

She paused for a second. "Two more, son and we'll be done."

I almost didn't say anything, but "Yes, ma'am. Take your time."

She looked confused. "Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way."

I pointed with my chin. "That way, ma'am."

"Oh!" she chuckled quietly, "Son, me and old age ain't too friendly."

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out.

"Okay, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home."

"Yes, ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?"

She paused. "Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all Marines."

She stopped. Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double timed it over to Kevin waiting by the car.

"Get to the "Out" gate quick. I have something I've got to do."

Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet.

"Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead." I humped it across the drive to the other post.

When the Cadillac came putting around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: "TehenHut! Present Haaaarms!"

I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye—full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud. She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send-off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice. I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac.

Instead of "The End" just think of "Taps."

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Gary Clark OUMC Frist Humanitarian Award Winner

“Another Case of What Can Happen From Tragedy”

We received this information from a co-worker of Gary Clark who works with him in the lab at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. She informed us that every year their hospital awards the Frist Humanitarian Award for an employee and then they are nominated on the national level for all HCA hospitals. Gary lost his 15-year-old son in a skiing accident and showed how gratifying it is to see the good that can come from tragedy in the ability to help others. The investigation into Gary's humanitarian acts was prompted by a co-worker losing her husband and Gary's name was mentioned. Following is some of the information provided in the nomination letter for Gary. It will show what one person can do.

Gary is involved as a Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church, a guest lecturer on grief at a local college, a leader of bible studies, is on the OU Medical Center committee for Organ Donation Awareness with Life Share Organ Donation and a pillar in The Compassionate Friends.

The Compassionate Friends Contributions:

- ♦ Gary attended his first meeting one week after the funeral of his son Travis in 1997. Gary tells of his experiences over the last 11 years as a journey which began with the help he was getting from this group and has grown into the help he can now give back to others. He says, “You know we get three days of bereavement time and the grieving process really is something that is measured in years.”
- ♦ He has been active with the Compassionate Friends on many levels. He's been a chapter leader, Regional Coordinator for Oklahoma, co-chair for the 2007 National Conference in Oklahoma City and has conducted workshops and sharing sessions at the national conferences. In 2008 he was elected to Board of Directors. He has a personal commitment to help parents understand 2 realities: 1) My Child Died and 2) My Child Lived. “Most parents are so afraid their child will be forgotten.” TCF is here to ensure that the children aren't forgotten.
- ♦ As a token of remembrance, Gary's local TCF chapter was instrumental in raising the funds to purchase and place a remembrance bench in Will Rogers Memorial Park in Oklahoma City. The bench is made of Oklahoma Red granite and has the Compassionate Friends logo on the back side and the phrase, “In Memory of All Our Children” on the front.

The Organ Donation Awareness Contributions:

- ♦ He became active in this program two years after the death of his son Travis. He had been in touch with all of the recipients of his son's organs, with the exception of one and he serves on the Organ Donation Awareness team for OU Medical Center with a unique perspective as a “donor dad.”
- ♦ He felt that “it was the only way I could see that Travis' death could have any meaning.”

Spiritual Mentoring Contributions:

- ♦ He became involved with The Carolyn Williams Center, a home for young men age 18 and older who are no longer eligible for foster care. He provides spiritual mentoring. They have weekly bible studies to give them tools and confidence they need to become independent.

Gary's Thoughts:

- ♦ “The changes wrought in my life because of the death of my son are phenomenal. If someone would have told me I would be public speaking 12 years ago, I would have told them they were out of their mind.”
- ♦ Now he is a Lay Speaker and a workshop presenter on a national level. Gary donates all of his time, and pays for all travel-related expenses out of his own pocket. “I'm only trying to give back some of what they've given me.”
- ♦ His best advise when dealing with the bereaved is “HANG, HUG, AND HUSH!” Simply be there, hug when hugs are wanted, and listen-don't talk. So many people don't know what to say, when the truth is we only need to listen and be available.
- ♦ During a photo shoot of the TCF remembrance bench, Gary began to cry and expressed his feelings of guilt for accepting a ‘pat-on-the-back.’ “I feel like a fraud,” he said.

Conclusion:

“If you ever get a chance to meet this remarkable man you will discover a tangible compassion that is beyond compare. He embodies the very essence of Humanitarian.”

Crystal Glass

Quote for the moment, “GOD DOESN'T TAKE HE ONLY RECEIVES!”

Excerpts for Hollywood Squares

- Q. Do female frogs croak?
- A. Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water long enough.
- Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be?
- A. Charley Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

- Q. True or False, a pea can last as long as 5,000 years.
- A. George Gobel: Boy, it sure seems that way sometimes.
- Q. You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?
- A. Don Knotts: That's what's been keeping me awake.
- Q. It is considered in bad taste to discuss two subjects at nudist camps. One is politics, what is the other?
- A. Paul Lynde: Tape measures.

Sack Lunches



I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. "I'm glad I have a good book to read.

Perhaps I will get a short nap," I thought. Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me.

I decided to start a conversation. "Where are you headed?" I asked the soldier seated nearest to me.

"Chicago—to Great Lakes Base. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Iraq."

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached Chicago, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time. As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. "No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to Chicago." His friend agreed. I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch.

I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. "Take a lunch to all of those soldiers." She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. "My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you are doing it for him."

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, "Which do you like best—beef or chicken?" "Chicken," I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of the plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. "This is your thanks."



After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. "I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this." He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, "I want to shake your hand." Quickly unfastening my seat belt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, "I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot." I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed in Chicago, I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned,

and walked away without saying a word, another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. "It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You."

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return.

These soldiers were giving their all for our country, I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little.....



Funeral Directors having discussions with Missouri Dist 28 Senator Delbert Scott

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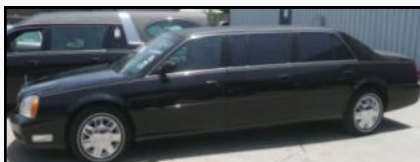
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