

The Dead Beat

The Caregiver's Soapbox



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

Late Spring, 2009

www.thedead-beat.com

Volume 10 Issue 1

Our English Cousins

By Brian Simmons

Springfield Mortuary Service, Springfield, MO

As many of you have, I have spent most of my life in this business. I have loved every day and, when my family and I travel we get a real kick out of visiting funeral firms in other countries.

Recently my daughter and granddaughter and I were in England to attend a golden wedding celebration for some friends. Since this was my first time in England, I was most anxious to see how our British cousins handled funerals. I visited with two local firms where we were staying and they pretty well represented the state of the British funeral business in general.

First of all, funeral directors operate out of small shops. There is usually an office, a small "Chapel of Remembrance," (viewing room), a preparation room and garage facilities for the rolling stock. The storefront firms usually featured such things as a grave marker or advertisement for

Horse Drawn Hearse services in the front store window.

I learned a few facts about day-to-day funeral business. One thing, all bodies were embalmed. The firms I visited used a trade embalmer who went from firm to firm. He evidently brought all of his equipment and fluid with him as there was no sign of either in the preparation rooms. One firm did have a cooler. I got the impression that embalming was done mainly for preservation and not cosmetic effect. Viewing was not presented as a big deal.

The body was most usually placed in an Oak -veneered pinch toe coffin with an engraved plastic nameplate and decorative handles. These were sold usually from a catalog or a sample kept in house. There were other coffins available if desired.

England is 95% cremation. When I mentioned direct cremation, the funeral directors did not understand what I meant. Everyone has some type of service, either in their church, their home or at the crematory chapel.

The crematories are owned by the cities and



Brian Simmons, daughter
Jennifer, granddaughter
Helen Ashley



Store Front of Malcolm Shaw and Sons Funeral Home



Glass Hearse and Oak Veneer Coffin

(Continued on page 18)

Other Articles in this Issue



East Texas Spring Meeting
Pg. 29



Final Ride in Fishing Boat
Pg. 14



Robby Bates and Friends at Construction Site
Pg. 19



Hilliard Funeral Home
Pg. 30

Cherokee
Child Caskets



Style 9A

Velvet Exterior ~ Keepsake Heart
With Vault

800-535-8667

www.cherokeechildcaskets.com

Amy Howard Art Gallery



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.

Scattering Cremains in a Natural Area



Native Grasses and Flowers Reaching to the Sky

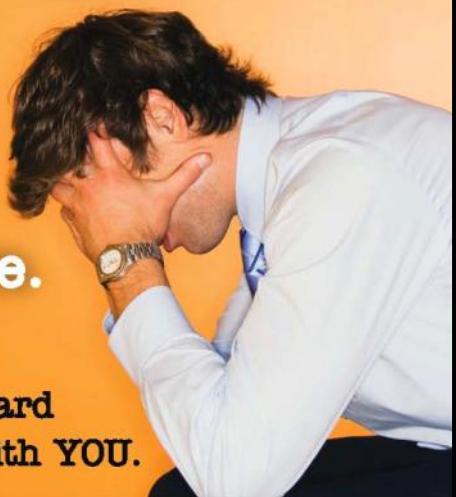
For those with a love for the natural landscape, arrangements have been made with the private owners of **Golden Prairie**, a registered natural landmark, to scatter cremains on their property. In addition to the arrangements, a picture and GPS location of the actual site is included.

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

For information contact:

Pugh Funeral Home
400 Chestnut-
Golden City, MO 64748-0145
1-417-537-4412 **1-800-575-2611**

**Has your pre-need company
OVER promised and UNDER
delivered...again?**



Not Here.

We look forward
to working with YOU.



LJ Enterprises Brings back "2004"
Pricing on Funeral Products By
HOWARD MILLER
www.cremationurnsdirect.com

Mention this ad and buy at 2004 Prices.

Distributor of Keepsakes, Urns, Vaults, Caskets, and Fine Memorial Products.

1793 Pine Circle
Lawrenceville, Ga 30044
Phone: 678 778 6018
Fax: 678 225 7142
Email: sales@cremationurnsdirect.com

LJE LJ Enterprises

www.securitynational.com/preneed
SNL **800-826-6803**



Mortuary Muse*

*to think or consider deeply; meditate
By Lowell

Reading Steve Palmer's article about "Preserving the Art of Preservation," **Funeral and Cemetery News, February, 2009**, hit home with us as we have had several families that had previous bad experiences with the presentation of their family member. We wondered if there is a growing shortage of trained embalmers or if managers who may not be embalmers place less importance on body presentation. We posed these questions to a number of funeral professionals and embalming suppliers.

Questions posed:

- ◆ Is there a shortage of embalmers with a true professional mindset and ability?
- ◆ Does management place less importance on body presentation?
- ◆ Do poorly presented bodies further influence the public to reject services with the body present because of little perceived value?

- ◆ Do funeral home owners and managers who are not embalmers have a different perspective about the importance of body presentation?

We were honored and gratified to receive the following insightful letter from Melissa Johnson Williams, CFSP, Executive Director of the American Society of Embalmers and some additional comments by Steve Palmer.

"Dear Lowell, thank you for your letter regarding your questions about embalming.

I don't believe there is a shortage of embalmers with a true professional mindset. I believe that there are many embalmers with not only a great mindset but great skills. Unfortunately what I feel we are seeing is not using those individuals to a funeral home's advantage. Instead of having the best person with the best skills, many times whoever happens to be available is used to do the preparation. This person may not want to do embalming and as a result it

shows. You have to have a passion for this. What I think has contributed to the problem is the mentality, "the deceased is buried tomorrow so if everything isn't perfect, no problem." Additionally we now have proponents of the statement, "embalming is only temporary." However what does temporary mean when a family has paid for embalming that believe we allow them to have a viewing of their loved one? If this is not possible because of poor embalming then we have done a huge disservice to this family.

Management, I feel, often disregards the preparation room—out of sight, out of mind. So little money is put into the preparation room in terms of new equipment, quality products and education. Education for the embalmer is essential. You did not learn everything you need to know in Mortuary School!!!!

I do believe from my experiences with families and the conversations I have had with them that bad experiences with embalming leads a family away from this choice in the future. Those of us working with these families have to work hard to gain their trust that we can and WILL do better for them.

It is very difficult for anyone who has
(Continued on page 8)

Since 1961

Brian Simmons Springfield Mortuary Service, Inc



Brian and Sue Simmons and
Jennifer Bodenhamer

FIRST CALLS

PREPARATION

TRANSPORTATION

SHIPPING SERVICE

CREMATORIAL

520 S. Patterson
Springfield, Missouri 65802

1-800-259-6207

(417) 869-2826 FAX- 417-869-9242

Death Touches Hearts of Missouri Town

(Summarized from article in Albuquerque Journal, November 28, 1976)

Windsor, MO (UPI) - Gail Gray's funeral was one of the biggest in memory in this town of 3,000. Downtown businesses closed. Farmers came into town from their fields. Policemen served as pallbearers.

But Gray was no prominent merchant or distinguished officer. He was a mongoloid, physically deformed and mentally retarded. In a big city he might have been shut into an anonymous institution, but in the town of Windsor he became known, loved and protected.

Gray, a lifelong resident of the area 80 miles southeast of Kansas City was left an orphan in 1958 at the age of 30. That was when residents pitched in to help him with places to stay and odd jobs to provide him money.

On November 15, he was sweeping the sidewalk outside the Merryfield Pharmacy, furiously as he always did, when he collapsed and died of a heart attack. He was 48. His funeral three days later brought about 175 persons.

When he died, his entire possessions were in a shoebox: A bill-fold stuffed with pictures of town children, who in turn printed his picture in their school yearbooks, toy deputy badges, a harmonica, an ashtray and a 1968 court notice which said he was mentally deficient.

When elderly residents of the rest home died, he was always the first to arrive at the funeral home. He would stand by the coffin with the minister, take off his hat, look in, step back and give a tearful salute, then leave before the service began.

At his funeral, the Rev. Prosser, holding back tears, quoted a biblical passage: "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The minister than approached the coffin as he had done so many times with Gray at his side at the funeral home. He touched the coffin, looked in, stepped back and paused. Then he saluted.

(Sent to us by one of our readers)

SCHAEFER MORTUARY SERVICE

1-800-296-9360

Licensed & Serving You in MISSOURI & ILLINOIS
 *REMOVALS * EYE ENUCLEATION * EMBALMING
 * CREMATION * SHIPPING

**WE REPRESENT YOU WITH 24-HOURS QUALITY SERVICE AS
 OUR #1 GOAL !**

MISSOURI

- *St. Louis City
- *St. Louis County
- *St. Charles County
- *Jefferson County
- *Surrounding Communities

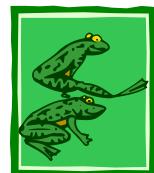


2061 Hwy 21
 St. Louis, MO
 63101

Not A Funeral Home - Not A Competitor
ROBERT & MONICA SCHAEFER, OWNERS

The Optimistic Frog

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl,
 One was an optimistic soul;
 But the other took the gloomy view,
 "We shall drown," he cried, without more ado.
 So with a last despairing cry,
 He flung up his legs and he said, "Goodbye."



Quote the other frog with a merry grin,
 "I can't get out, but I won't give in.
 I'll just swim 'round till my strength is spent,
 Then will I die the more content."



Bravely he swam till it would seem
 His struggles began to churn the cream
 On the top of the butter at last he stopped,
 And out of the bowl he happily hopped.

What of the moral? 'Tis easily found
 If you can't hop out, keep swimming 'round!

Anybody Got Any Ideas????

We got a request for any companies that handle crematory auto-loaders that automatically insert the casket into the retort. Any information, please e-mail us:

editor@thedead-beat.com or call: 800-575-2611

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.



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

Things I have not written about or failed miserably when it came to getting the rest of the story included the following:

- ◆ A public relations practitioner, Amy Nieberger-Miller, APR writer in **Public Relations Tactics**, told of grieving the death of her brother who had been killed in Iraq. She explained how events challenged some of her professional guidelines when protecting her family's privacy and how surprised she was at the stress level in her voice when interviewed. She also expressed how proud she was of her brother and his service to our country.
- ◆ The continuing story of a funeral home family torn by an internal power struggle that caused one member to open a competing firm. A shooting confrontation between the father and a son. The son was then elected coroner while awaiting trial. After being convicted in the shooting, the coroner office was vacated and three other family members were running for office in the last account I read.
- ◆ Then there was the story of the Desha County, Arkansas courthouse clock that is thought to be haunted by the ghost of a wrongly accused and hung traveler. The events occurred at the turn of the twentieth century. Even after recent repairs the clock was still erratic and electric clocks were also screwed up. The courthouse officials were contacting paranormal investigators. Among other paraphernalia the investigators were usingdowsing rods. Well, the rods work in cemeteries.
- ◆ A story about internet junkies dying and leaving strangers they may have been playing games with or blogging, in the dark as to what happened to them. Relatives should see to it that the deceased's "guild" or other persons learn what happened to them by posting a notice on



an appropriate website.

- ◆ There is quite a time delay by ICCFA in getting the music licenses out to firms that have paid for the license. When we called about the delay, I thought the office person was a little flippant about the issue.

I hope our readers continue to enjoy The Dead Beat. We are grateful for your comments and are deeply appreciative of the advertisers who have made it possible for the past 10 years.

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.

Reprise of Chuckles—Volume 2 Issue 2- July/August, 2000

From a source in San Diego, who has since passed away, but still leaves us laughing.

1. Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way if he gets angry, he'll be a mile away and barefoot.
2. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
3. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
4. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
5. A closed mouth gathers no feet.
6. If you look like your passport picture, you deserve the trip.
7. Always yield to temptation because it may not pass your way again.
8. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
9. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.
10. Men are from Earth. Women are from Earth. Deal with it.
11. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
12. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
13. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
14. Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.
15. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
16. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
17. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going into a garage makes you a mechanic.
18. By the time you make ends meet—they move the ends.
19. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
20. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

BAXTER VAULT COMPANY

Baxter Springs, Kansas/Independence, Kansas

Phone 800-346-0547

"Serving The 4-State Area"

*Doric Burial Vaults

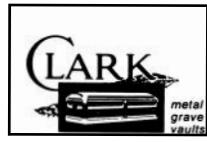
*Clark Steel Vaults

*Concrete Boxes

*Mausoleums

*Monuments/Markers

The finest tribute... the most trusted protection





After-Thoughts By Joanne Howard



Celebrating our tenth anniversary seems mind-boggling to me. Not that I've written an afterthoughts column for all of the issues, but I made a copy of each issue's column and I did a bunch of them. I feel like I've hashed out the same things over and over, but during our ten years I also lost my second daughter, in addition to a step-father, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Then, of course, there was putting my mother in the nursing home that isn't a death, but awfully close to it when you can't really take them out much. So let's see what I'd like to cover this issue.

I was thinking the other day that this is a challenging time of the year for people who have lost loved ones. Mother's Day, Graduation, Father's Day, Weddings, etc., all of the holidays that remind you of the people missing or missing out. At church on Mother's Day and Father's Day they have these cutesy questions that are to recognize some mothers and fathers. My husband and I dread it and I am surprised that we even show up, but we usually have other responsibilities at church, he's at the organ and I'm in the choir. But this last mother's day it crossed my mind that not only is it upsetting to me, who has lost children, but what about those that have lost their mothers, those that will never get the chance to be a mother and all different combinations.

Now, who exactly came up with this holiday? Not that I don't want mothers recognized or fathers, but should we be acknowledging them all the time. It's like Christmas. It's such a time of giving to everyone, why do we not do that all year long when we can?

In reference to Mother's Day, my husband got an absolutely inspired card this year. It starts out with one big card and he put it was from him, inside was a slightly smaller card and he put it was from one of my daughters. Then inside it was another smaller card and it was from my youngest daughter. Finally inside it, the card was signed from the dog and all of them. In other words, I got a card from all of them in one card whether they were here or not. It made me so happy!! Granted you feel sad on occasions, the privilege of being a mom or dad was worth it—even if you only had been a mom or dad for a short amount of time. I'm not sure how I'm going to top that card on Father's Day.

So people need to realize that even though you no longer have children, mothers or fathers or will never have those weddings or graduations of the deceased children, you still want to acknowledge them. You feel sad at other people's events, but you don't begrudge anyone celebrating their happy events. But don't

be surprised if they don't attend and if they do, don't make a big deal about it. People will attend if they feel they can handle it, but this is not to say that they aren't sad or upset. Life goes on and most people try to continue their lives as normal as possible.

Hopefully, our magazine will continue and I'll be inspired to share with you other thoughts after losing loved ones.



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@thedeadbeat.com.

The "Why's" Have It!

Why did God allow this to happen to me?

Why did she die? **Why** is there so much suffering in the world? **Why** hasn't God healed him? **WHY? WHY? WHY?**

Is it wrong for us to ask "**why**"? Is it a failure on our part if we do? **Why** not? Jesus did!

Look at some of His "**why**" questions—Maybe we should ask ourselves these instead.

"...**WHY** do you worry about the rest?" Luke 12:26
WHY do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Matt. 7:3
"You of little faith, **WHY** did you doubt?" Matt. 14:3.
WHY are you so afraid?" Mark 4:40.
WHY are you sleeping? Get up and pray" Luke 22:46
WHY are you crying? Who are you looking for?" John 20:15.

BUT, our loving God wants us to come to Him with our cares and burdens. We should never be afraid to ask Him "**why**?" Jesus in his very human frailty, at his most humbling moment asked the ultimate "**WHY**" question on the cross. — "My God, my God, **WHY** have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:34. And his answer came moments later: "It is finished." John 19:30. He committed His spirit into His Father's hands. His task complete.

Ask "**WHY?**" all you want, just be ready to listen for God's answer and commit yourself into HIS care.

Reprise of Word Search Relaxation Vol. 1 Issue 3—Sept./Oct., 1999

Find the words hidden in this puzzle horizontal, vertical, diagonal and backwards. Answer found on page 17

C	A	F	E	T	A	B	V	L	T	S	M	T	C	E	K
M	E	G	A	H	K	F	H	E	A	F	A	Z	A	G	Q
O	T	R	C	R	I	Z	K	Y	F	T	Y	K	S	L	O
P	S	A	E	T	B	S	N	A	O	A	B	M	H	R	C
K	I	E	M	M	A	M	A	O	T	R	D	R	I	A	A
Q	T	G	B	C	O	S	T	O	F	G	O	O	D	S	R
T	L	A	A	F	U	N	E	L	R	E	A	P	V	T	M
V	A	U	L	T	B	D	Y	F	G	N	Z	E	A	A	N
B	M	S	M	O	S	V	W	A	G	E	Q	N	N	T	Y
Z	S	A	I	U	Z	O	N	I	T	R	U	E	C	E	D
E	E	M	N	N	M	G	K	A	L	A	M	E	M	X	
N	X	E	G	R	I	B	C	B	X	L	G	V	S	E	F
H	T	A	E	D	A	I	R	O	B	P	M	S	E	N	A
I	T	W	I	T	F	B	N	R	F	R	I	Z	S	T	C
S	B	A	G	I	K	L	O	E	V	I	R	O	M	K	I
R	E	C	T	A	A	T	W	Z	F	C	S	U	A	S	L
T	D	R	S	R	C	G	M	N	O	E	Q	H	L	C	I
A	E	C	E	E	U	Z	Q	A	F	L	U	L	T	T	T
C	Z	N	R	G	A	S	T	L	C	I	A	D	H	L	I
Y	U	I	A	B	V	K	Z	I	H	S	H	O	L	S	E
F	D	M	M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	M	I	A	B	S

ServicePLUSSM

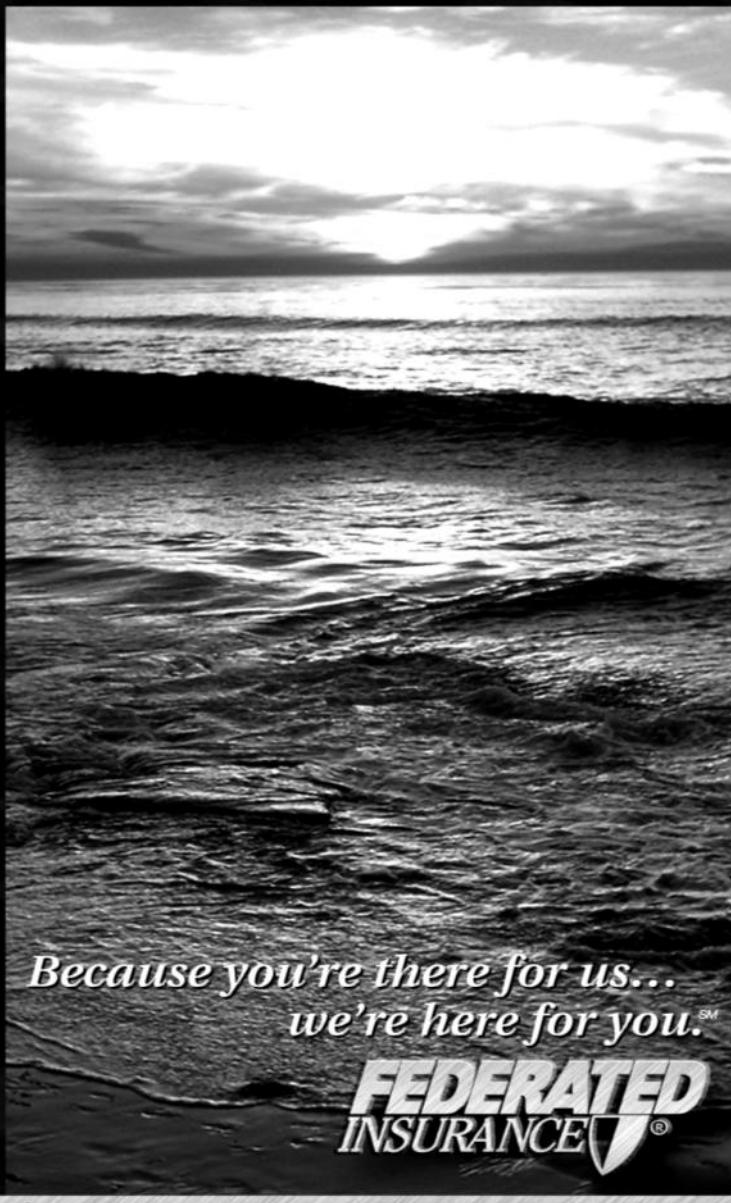
*An Extensive Program of Insurance
and Risk Management Services for the
Funeral Service Profession*

- *Business Insurance*
 - *Property and Liability*
 - *Business Auto*
 - *Workers Compensation*
 - *Commercial Umbrella*
- *Group Health*
- *Facilitating Estate and Business Succession Planning*
- *Key Employee Benefits*
- *Individual Retirement Plans*
- *Risk Management Services*



Nationwide coverage, local service.* *All programs and services may not be available in all states.

The FEDERATED Insurance Companies
Home Office: 121 East Park Square, Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-5200 • www.federatedinsurance.com



*Because you're there for us...
we're here for you.* SM

FEDERATED
INSURANCE 

Mortuary Muse (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

no embalming experience to understand the challenges we embalmers face every day. The role that the cause of death plays in our experience such as extreme edema, trauma, obesity, infectious diseases and other situations is directly related to the outcome of the embalming, if the embalmer is not prepared. This is A PREVENTABLE failure. This is why it is so important for all embalming room personnel to have continuing education. The embalmer controls the outcome.

I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to contact me if you have other questions or need clarification." -Melissa Johnson Williams.

Steve Palmer replied to a few questions about his experience with the New England Institute:

"New England Institute in 1974 did not have an embalming facility (located in the heart of Kenmore Square, Boston in the old Dodge Chemical Company building in the shadow of Fenway Park). Our only observation of deceased persons through school was at Harvard University's School of Medicine amphitheatre where we observed our embalming professor dissecting a body over several months. I was working for a busy trade service at the time and had all the embalming experience I wanted. Now NEI is part of Mount Ida College in more suburban Newton, Mass and Dodge helped build the Dodge Center for Thantological Studies so Jacquie Taylor DOES do embalming. In fact they just opened a service for indigent burials (ala her San Francisco College of Mortuary Sciences program). Mesa (AZ) College of Mortuary Science has embalming facilities. More & more do. I can't quote facts but could easily find out for you.

Embalming is becoming a second tiered part of our vocation and much to our detriment. These awful presentations of families' loved ones is fast eroding our significance and the public perception of what a funeral should be. Shame on us all. I do not see it turning, but my two cents are on the table.

Any comments or additional information send to Lowell Pugh at The Dead Beat.

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.

New AARP Bumper Stickers (www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm)

Cremation?

Think outside the Box.



I'm Retired.

I was tired yesterday, and I'm tired again today.

When I was younger, all I wanted was a nice BMW.

Now, I don't care about the W.

I'm in the initial stages of my golden years.

SS, CD's, IRA's, AARP.....

Senior's Campbell's—New Large Type Alphabet Soup.



"The secret of staying young is to live honestly...

Eat slowly, and lie about your age."

I'm not old. I'm Chronologically Gifted.

Retirement is the best medicine.

Florida-God's Waiting Room.

Experience is a wonderful thing.

It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

I'm so old that whenever I eat out, they ask me for the money up front.

We got married for better or worse. He couldn't do better, I couldn't do any worse.

I asked my wife if old men wear boxers or briefs?

She said, "Depends."

Food has replaced sex in my life...

Now I can't even get into my own pants!

I'm so old

I don't buy green bananas

I was at the Beauty Shop for nearly two hours

That was only for the estimate

Sometimes I wake up grumpy... and some days I let him sleep.

American
CREMATORY EQUIPMENT CO.
SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS • SUPPLIES

JOHN RAGGETT
Vice President

P.O. BOX 4087 • 9828 ARLEE AVE.
SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670

Office: (562) 222-BURN
(800) 396-2254 • Fax: (562) 222-2880
Cell: (562) 755-1244
www.americancrematory.com

"SERVICE IS EVERYTHING"



DALLAS INSTITUTE
OF FUNERAL SERVICE



3909 South Buckner Blvd. • Dallas, Texas 75227
800-235-5444 • 214-388-5466 • Fax 214-388-0316
www.dallasinstitute.edu • difs@mindspring.com

In accordance with title VI of the civil rights act of 1964 (p.L. 88-352) students accepted without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability

Keeping the Connection

By Ken Doka

"My daughter says I should get rid of all of Mark's stuff. She's troubled that sometimes on a cold lonely day that I will go to the closet and wear one of Mark's old flannel shirts. It makes me feel good—close to him, but she says I am living in the past."

Lauren's daughter has the best intentions, but her advice here was so wrong. There is an image of grief that when someone dies, we have to, and better sooner than later, move on and somehow find closure. We need to let go of the past and live in the present.

Nothing can be more mistaken.

Last week, an elderly widower came to one of my grief lectures. I spoke about continuing connections that we retain even after someone dies. Visibly relieved, he shared with me that his wife of 62 years had recently died. His physician told him that in 6 months he would be over it, his grief forgotten. He smiled and simply stated, "You make more sense."

Most of us find that over time the pain does lessen and we can return to some sense of life before our loss. It is no longer so difficult to concentrate. We seem to be able to go back to the levels of efficiency we had prior to our grief.

This does not mean, though, that we forget our loved one.

How can we? The memories of the person we loved will always remain. In

fact, one of the signs that we're doing better is that we can laugh at stories—memories once too painful to recall. The promise is not that we will forget, but that as we progress in our grief, we will be able to remember.

We stay connected even in death.

This represents a major shift in the ways that grief counselors think about grief. We now no longer see the goal of counseling to help the person detach from the individual who died. We know that is neither possible nor desired. Rather, grief counselors seek to help their clients realize the ways the individual who died still remains a part of their existence.

Certainly memories are one way, but there are others as well. They remain part of our biography—our identity. I would not be the person I am today, for better or worse, without the presence of my parents, my brother, my sister, and all the people I love. Each of them has left an imprint. I see them every time I look in a mirror.

They left legacies as well. Some of the legacies may seem small, such as the taste for grilled tuna fish sandwiches on cold rainy days. Others might be major, such as the skills in organization or conflict resolution that I learned from my dad. Yet all of them remain gifts.

We connected spiritually as well.

Each of us has our own ways to understand and to describe that connection. To some it may be a belief in a heavenly reunion; to others it may be that their spirit resides within us.

We can even structure occasions or rituals where we explicitly make that connection. We have a family reunion—always on the Saturday in June closest to my mother's birthday. We remember her as we come together. More than that, we celebrate ourselves as family, perpetuating a value that she held dear.

The bond continues.

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)

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE
www.fraleyfuneralsupply.com

 FRALEY Funeral Supply

Joplin, Missouri

1-800-641-4666

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1938"

Keith Fraley Eric Zentner
 Beth Fraley-Zentner

Also Representing



Bass-Mollett Publishers

Chuckles

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

Different Ways of Looking at Things (Or the uncertainty of the English language)

- ◆ Guys were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and family values. Stu said, "I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?" Leroy replied, "I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?"
- ◆ A little boy went up to his father and asked, "Dad, where did my intelligence come from?" The father replied, "Well, son, you must have got it from your mother, cause I still have mine."
- ◆ "Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said. "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week." "That's very fair, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."
- ◆ A doctor examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside, and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all." "Me neither doc," said the husband. "But she's a great cook and really is good with the kids."
- ◆ An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 40 years. The Wizard says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you." The old man says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."
- ◆ A blonde calls Delta Airlines and asks, "Can you tell me how long it'll take to fly from San Francisco to New York City?" The agent replies, "Just a minute." "Thank you," the blonde says and hangs up.
- ◆ Two detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez. "How was he killed?" asked one detective. "With a golf gun," the other detective replied. "A golf gun! What is a golf gun?" "I don't know. But it sure made a hole in Juan."
- ◆ Moe: "My wife got me to believe in religion." Joe: "Really?" Moe: "Yeah. Until I married her I didn't believe in Hell."
- ◆ A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling. "I'm okay, but I didn't like the four-letter words the doctor used in surgery," he answered. "What did he say?" asked the nurse. "Oops!"
- ◆ While shopping for vacation clothes, my husband and I passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since I had even considered buying a bathing suit, so I sought my husband's advice. "What do you think?" I asked. "Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?" He's still in intensive care.
- ◆ The graveside service just barely finished, when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there."

Comments

We all enjoy it!
Patti Henson, Linden, TX

Bride and Groom

Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, living in Florida, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in. Jacob addresses the man behind the counter, "Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes." Jacob says, "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?" Pharmacist answers, "Of course, we do." "How about medicine for circulation?" Jacob asks. "All kinds," the pharmacist replies. "Medicine for rheumatism?" Jacob questions. "Definitely," the pharmacist answers. "How about suppositories?" Jacob continues. "You bet!" the pharmacist says. "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis and Alzheimer's?" Jacob asked. "Yes, a large variety. The works." the pharmacist answered. "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?" "Absolutely," the pharmacist said. "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?" Jacob continued. "We sure do," the pharmacist responded. "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?" Jacob asked. "All speeds and sizes," the pharmacist answered. "Adult diapers?" Jacob questioned. "Sure," the pharmacist responded. "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry." Jacob stated.



Submitted by reader.

Mud Holes

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddles through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five-year-old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face in the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother ran to the yard in a panic. "Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she asked as she shook the older boy in anger. "We were just playing 'church' mommy," he said. "I was just baptizing him... in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes...."

The Irish Golfer

A golfer playing in Ireland hooked his drive into the woods. Looking for his ball, he found a little Leprechaun flat on his back, a big bump on his head and the golfer's ball beside him. Horrified, the golfer got his water bottle from the cart and poured it over the little guy, reviving him. "Argh! What happened?" the Leprechaun asked. "I'm afraid I hit you with my golf ball." the golfer says. "Oh, I see. Well, ye got me fair and square. Ye get three wishes so whaddya want?" "Thank God, you're all right!" the golfer answers in relief. "I don't want anything, I'm just glad you're OK, and I apologize. And the golfer walks off. "What a nice guy," the Leprechaun says to himself. "I have to do something for him. I'll give him the three things I would want...a great golf game, all the money he ever needs, and a fantastic sex life." A year goes by and



(Continued on page 11)

Chuckles (Cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

the golfer is back. On the same hole, he again hits a bad drive into the woods and the Leprechaun is there waiting for him. "Twas me that made ye hit the ball here," the little guy says. "I just want to ask ye, how's yer golf game?"

"My game is fantastic!" the golfer answers. "I'm an internationally famous golfer now." He adds, "By the way, it's good to see you're all right." "Oh, I'm fine now, thank ye. I did that fer yer golf game, you know. And tell me, how's yer money situation?" "Why, it's just wonderful!" the golfer states. "When I need cash, I just reach in my pocket and pull out \$100 bills I didn't even know were there!" "I did that fer ye also. And tell me, how's yer sex life?" The golfer blushes, turns his head away in embarrassment, and says shyly, "It's okay." "C'mon, c'mon now," urged the Leprechaun, "I'm wanting to know if I did a good job. How many times a week?" Blushing even more, the golfer looks around than whisper, "Once, sometimes twice a week."

"What ??!" responds the Leprechaun in shock. "That's all?" Only once or twice a week.

"Well," says the golfer, "I figure that not bad for a Catholic priest in a small parish."

Just A Joke

Each Friday night after work, Bubba would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak. But all of Bubba's neighbors were Catholic. And since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Fridays. The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The priest came to visit Bubba, and suggested that he become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Bubba attended Mass... and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, "You were born a Baptist and raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic." Bubba's neighbors were greatly relieved.... Until Friday night arrived and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The priest was immediately called by the neighbors. As he rushed into Bubba's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, the priest stopped and watched in amazement. There stood Bubba, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilled meat and



David Patterson's Global Mortuary Affairs

Serving Dallas / Ft. Worth,
North & East Texas

Embalming * Removals * Ship-Outs * Ship-Ins * Cremation
Overland Transportation * Refrigeration * Graveside Services
Private Donor/Autopsy Suite Available

Phone 877.216.2708 Fax 972.216.2705

www.globalmortuaryaffairs.com

chanted. "You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but now you is a catfish!"



Two keys hang in an undertaker's office: one for the organ in the chapel; the other for one of the cars in the garage. Two small signs about the keys read, "Hymn" and "Hearse."

Hollywood Squares Highlights:

Question: Which of your five senses tends to diminish as you get older?

Answer: Charley Weaver: My sense of decency.

Question: When you pat a dog on its head he will wag his tail. What will a goose do?

Answer: Paul Lynde: Make him bark?

Question: If you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?

Answer: Paul Lynde: Whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.

Question: Back in the old days, when Great Grandpa put horseradish on his head, what was he trying to do?

Answer: George Gobel: Get it in his mouth.

Question: According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?

Answer: Paul Lynde: Point and laugh.

We don't stop laughing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop laughing.

Quality Engravers • Printers • Publishers

 MOONEY-KEEHLEY

22 Winston Place • Rochester, NY 14607
800-451-6736 • www.mooneykeehley.com

Offering Classic, Elegant Funeral Products Since 1930

- Register Books
- Photo Personalization
- Acknowledgement Cards
- Custom Design
- Prayer Cards
- and much more!

No Price Increases!

CALL TODAY FOR A CATALOG



DARLENE M. RUSSELL, CPC
LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR
PRE-NEED SALES DIRECTOR

(573) 821-6340

darussell13@hotmail.com
Home Office: Belleville, IL
866-775-6333

CFL PRE-NEED

Professionals in Pre-Need Funding

CLASSIFIED

RATES : \$1.00 per word, with minimum charge of \$20.00. All advertising in this department is payable in advance. If drawer number is requested please add \$8.00 to total. The identity of drawer numbers is strictly confidential and cannot be divulged.

FOR SALE: Champion procelain hydraulic embalming table, old but, good condition. Turner Portiboy embalming machine/pulsator and Champion Electric Aspirator. Call Lowell at 417-537-4412 for more details.

"GRIEF RESOLUTION FOR CO-WORKERS," A self-study course including material appropriate for business and service club meetings available in book form for \$14.95 shipping and handling included. H.L. Pugh & Associates Consulting, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748-0145, 1-800-575-2611

The Dead Beat's Coverage

Many things are provided in the Bible, but reading the other day my attention was drawn to Genesis 50: 2—3 “Then Joseph gave orders to embalm his father’s body. It took forty days, the normal time for embalming. The Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.”

(Talk about a long embalming and funeral process)

Directory of Funeral Homes, Funeral Directors and Embalmers and Crematories**ARIZONA****Westcott Funeral Home**

1013 East Mingus Ave
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-634-9566 800-522-9566
Steve & April Palmer, Owners

TEXAS**SUPERIOR MORTUARY & CREMATORY SERVICES, INC.**

800-276-3547

* Most Preferred Mortuary Service in the Austin Area
*Prompt and Courteous Service at Reasonable Prices
*NFDA-TFDA
*Over 20 Yrs Experience
Independent, Fully Insured
*Serving the Entire Central TX area
*Embalming - Cremation - Shipping Services and Specialty Services Upon Request
DEE BESTEIRO-PRESIDENT
1916 Tillery, Austin, TX 78723

ARKANSAS**Highland Hills Transport Service Inc**

Located in Northwest Arkansas
602 Cedarvale Rd. - Berryville, AR 72616
(870)480-9285 (Cell)
(870)423-4253 (Home)
E-Mail—hhts@cox.net
Larry D. Sanders, Owner
Ark & MO Licensed Funeral Director
Arkansas Transport License #14

MISSOURI**Columbia Cremation Care Center**

4101 S. Providence Road
Columbia, MO 65203
573-874-3635

Removal—Cremation—Paperwork
\$325.00 complete

Cremations ready for pickup in
3 hours

Brand new modern facility
Affordable, dignified service

Brian R. Gardner, owner
Over 20 years experience

columbiacremationcare.com
E-mail: columbiacremationcare@yahoo.com

**Weatherford Mortuary & Cremation Service, Inc.**

817-594-8723

817-599-3940 Fax

*Full Service Facility

*Reasonable Pricing

*Immediate & Courteous Service
*Serving the DFW Metroplex Area & Beyond

amc11811@sbcglobal.net

Alan M. Craig—Owner
1950 South Main #213
Weatherford, TX 76086

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN OUR DIRECTORY. IT WILL BE \$20 PER ISSUE- 6 issues for \$100. PROVIDE WHAT INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE DISPLAYED AND CHECK TO:

H.L. PUGH & ASSOC.,
P.O. BOX 145,
GOLDEN CITY, MO 64748-0145
or

E-mail:
Editor@thedead-beat.com

Hoefer Associates
2818 S Hwy 13
Higginsville, MO 64037
(660) 584-7000
F.R. Frosty Hoefer
Funeral Business Broker

10th Anniversary Cover Story Reprise

A CIRCUS FAREWELL

Showman Leaves World in Big-Top Grand Finale

By Lewis Hickenbottom-Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home

Jan/Feb, 2000—Vol. 1 Issue 5

Hugo, (Circus City, U.S.A.) Oklahoma. The funeral service for D.R. Miller, owner of the Carson & Barnes Circus and co-owner of the Kelley-Miller Brothers Circus, one of the largest funerals ever was held in Hugo, Oklahoma, estimated at over 1,500.

D.R. Miller turned his funeral into a circus, which of course is exactly how he planned it. "He wanted the publicity for the circus," his daughter Barbara Miller Byrd said after the funeral.

On Tuesday, November 16, 1999 a crew of men and Miller's beloved cir-

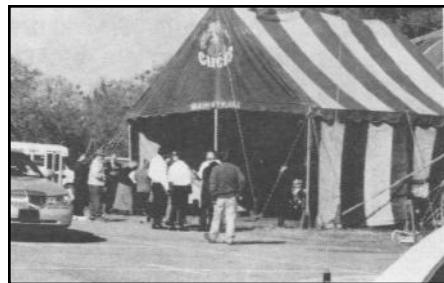


Funeral Held in Big Top

cus elephants erected a big-top tent. On Wednesday, November 17, 1999 they held his funeral in the tent complete with bleachers, spotlights and a band.

A parade of circus animals led the procession on its 1 1/2 mile trip to the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Miller's body, which had been in storage since his death on September 8, arrived at the cemetery in a horse-drawn funeral coach built in 1872. Most everything the Millers and the circus do are events in this town. In September when Isa the elephant gave birth, "it's a girl" was the top headline in Hugo's newspaper. His funeral was no exception. They closed school for the day and some businesses closed.



The Upper Crust Bakery (located downtown), which usually has sold all of its Bavarian cream pastries by 9 a.m. still had a counter full. Meanwhile, the Daylight Donut Shop (located on the funeral procession route) had sold out of all their products by 8 a.m.

"This is a true D.R. Miller production," his nephew Kevin Murray said. "It's guaranteed to be at least one hour and 45 minutes long, and there will be no intermission."

The lighting crew provided one set of spotlights for D.R. Miller's funeral and the sun provided the other. As his



Horse-Drawn Hearse

granddaughter, Kristin, his nephew Kevin, friends and the Rev. Steve Goughnour each took a turn at the microphone, the sun beamed into the tent

through the pole holes in the top.

As the morning and the service progressed, the beams of light moved ever so slightly through the center ring, where Miller's casket rested atop two bull tubs, the stands on which elephants perform. Behind the speaker's stand, one beam moved across a miniature



Horse-Drawn Hearse

circus wagon, lighting up the artificial greenery and the tiger inside the cage, the cage was in the spotlight.

The funeral directors slid the flowers to the foot of his casket and opened the lid. As hundreds filed past for a look at Miller, in his red elephant tie and the Carson and Barnes hat nestled at his elbow, the sun-spot moved off the tiger's cage and onto the grass. As the funeral directors wiped the fingerprints off the shiny red paint that coated Miller's solid copper casket, the sun-spot moved onto a wreath of artificial flowers. The wreath encircled the words, spelled out on poster board: "D.R. Miller, King of the Showmen."

As Mrs. Byrd tucked a red handkerchief in the top pocket of her father's suit coat, the sun lit the yellow flowers and the top of the sign. Miller was in the spotlight again.

(Continued on page 16)



Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues



COLORADO

Steve Comi, 89, of Trinidad, died May 5, 2009. He was co-owner of Comi Funeral Home in Trinidad where he worked until his retirement at the age of 80. He still came to the funeral home at least once a week to keep "check" that things were going well.

KANSAS



Carrol Kay Beckwith, 74, of Larned, passed away February 25, 2009. He was former owner of Beckwith Mortuary, Inc., and Beckwith Funeral Home, Inc., Jetmore. He was a funeral director for 33 years. He was a member of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association and the National Funeral Directors Association.



Donald Joseph (Joe) Bremer, 55, of Council Grove, died April 3, 2009. He was member of the Kansas Army National Guard for eight years. He graduated from Kansas City Kansas Community College with an Associates Degree in Mortuary Science in 1984 along with a Directors Award from the Mortuary Science Department. He worked at the Flanigan-Hunt Mortuary and Lakeview Funeral Home in Wichita before moving to Topeka in 1988 to work at Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home. In 1990 he then was named manager of Memorial Chapel of the Flint Hills in Council Grove which later became Penwell-Gabel funeral Home & Crematory, Flint Hills Chapel who handled his services.

MISSOURI

Jennie Taylor Farthing, 97, of Ozark died Feb. 27, 2009. She was the mother of Mary and Dean Adams, Adams Funeral Home. Her service was handled by Adams Funeral Home of Ozark.

Richard "Rick" Allen Hill, 60 of Appleton City died May 18, 2009. He worked with his parents and later became the owner of Hill & Son Funeral Home. His father Glenn worked hand-in-hand with Rick, teaching him about running a funeral home and serving those in need until Glenn's retirement. He was currently serving as MFDA district treasurer. His services were handled by Hill & Sons Funeral Home with assistance from the Schowengerdt Funeral Chapel.

For West Texas Man Who Practically Lived On Water, There Was No Better Hearse Than Fishing Boat

From an article in the **Star-Telegram** by Melody McDonald the story of a retired oil company worker who loved fishing was carried to his grave in his fishing boat. Jerry "PaPa" Ray died on May 1 at age 78 and his children and grandchildren decided to honor his memory by carrying his casket to his grave in his beat-up old boat.

After he died there was never any question that Jerry's son, Doug Ray, a funeral director in Rotan, would handle the arrangements. "We like to personalize funerals, and he was my dad," he said. "...He was just a good guy from West Texas." Jerry was buried in the Midway Cemetery in the Jones County community of Hodges, which is near Truby, where Jerry was raised. About two miles before the funeral procession arrived at the cemetery, Jerry's casket was taken out of the hearse and placed in the old boat.

TEXAS

Philip Victor Beaver, Sr., of Georgetown died April 25, 2009. He was father of Ann Singer, Executive Director of TFDA. Services were conducted by The Gabriels Funeral Chapel, Georgetown, TX.

Rev. H. Elvin Crocker, of Lufkin, died May 6, 2009. He was the father of Ron Crocker, Operations Manager, Carroway-Claybar Funeral Home, Lufkin, TX. Arrangements were under the direction of Carroway-Claybar Funeral Home, Lufkin, TX.

Grace E. Fay, of Aransas Pass passed away May 10, 2009. She was the mother of Lisa Honeycutt of Texas Service Life Insurance Co., Portland, TX. Arrangements were under the direction of Charlie Marshall Funeral Home & Crematory, Aransas Pass, TX.

Marie Gehring, of Brinkley, AR, died April 19, 2009. She was the mother-in-law of Charles Monroe of Francisco Monroe Funeral Cars Sales and vice president of the Texas Funeral Supply Sales Club of Dallas, TX. Services were handled by Bob Neal & Sons Funeral Home in Brinkley, Arkansas.

Harry J. Iiams, of Conroe, died April 20, 2009. He was a retired funeral director of Earthman Funeral Home and Brookside Funeral Home, Houston, TX. Services were arranged by Cashner Funeral Home in Conroe.

George Holton Johnson, of Lubbock, died April 22, 2009. He was father of Rex Johnson, formerly with McNett Funeral Home, Andrews, but Rex Johnson is currently a Market Center Manager for FDLIC and father-in-law of Becky McNett Johnson. Services were arranged by Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock.

James B. Lemons, of San Antonio, died May 1, 2009. He was stepfather of Duane Schaefer, president of Paxus Services, Inc. in Boerne. Services were directed by Porter Loring Mortuary in San Antonio.

Major Cecil L. Mathers, of Fort Worth, died May 27, 2009. He was U.S. Army, Retired and father-in-law of Lee Jackson with Brown, Owns & Brumley Funeral Directors in Fort Worth. Services were directed by Greenwood Funeral Home, Fort Worth, TX.

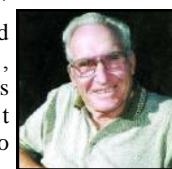
If you know of a fellow funeral service colleague that has died that we have not included, please send the information and picture if available (The Dead Beat, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748) or fax it to us (417-537-4797) or E-Mail to Joanne@thedead-beat.com



Denotes Veteran of Military Service

The boat was then pulled by Jerry's fishing pickup into the cemetery, drawing looks of surprise—and smiles—from friends.

As the family gathered around the grave, the song, Riverbank, by country singer Jeff Bates, began to play—a fitting tribute to a good man who loved to fish—"I wish this was a riverbank, instead of a graveyard, I wish we were sittin' a n d fishin', And this wouldn't be so hard."



Jerry



Casket in Boat



The Lamcraft Collection

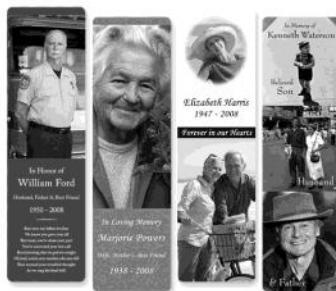
The keepsakes you present will be cherished for a lifetime. Give the families you serve the ultimate in fine quality laminated keepsakes with the Premium Memorial Card and Memorial Card collections from Lamcraft. Our cards feature beautiful full color artwork, quality paper stock, and the finest of lamination.



Offering Fine Quality Memorial and Laminating Products for Over 34 Years

Tribute Bookmarks

With Lamcraft's Tribute Bookmarks, your families can incorporate *personal photographs and their own writing* into one-of-a-kind memorial tributes for their loved ones.



Free samples available!



1.800.821.1333
www.lamcraft.com
yourrep@lamcraft.com

★★★ Clear Creek Coach ★★

Independently Owned and Operated Hearse for Hire
Call us for Affordable Rates and Additional Information

417-432-3511



Clear Creek Coach – a distinctive tribute to those who have passed before us

A Circus Farewell (Cont.)

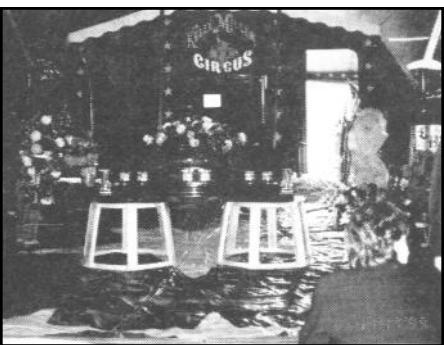
(Continued from page 13)

As seven pall bearers, circus owners all, hoisted his casket and walked out of the big top, the sun moved off the wreath and shined to the ground behind. The spotlight was off. The show was over.

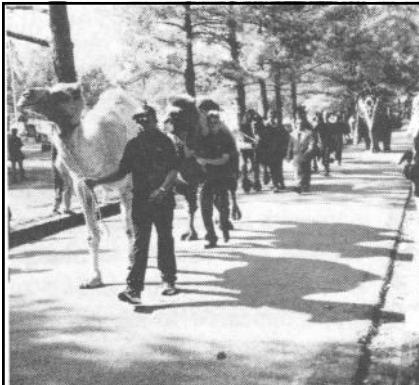
On the last day of his life, a Saturday in September, the Carson & Barnes Circus was in McCook, Nebraska.

Dores Richard Miller wasn't feeling well, and after he fainted, his family took him to the hospital. The doctors said he was okay. His daughter, Barbara was driving him back to the circus grounds and he told her, "I saw my first circus here, he was only 8 years old in 1924."

On September 8th after he returned to his trailer, he rested while his daughter checked on the show. When she returned he was in his golf cart. "Dad, what are you do-



Miller's Casket on top of the Elephant Tubs



Funeral Procession

ing?" she asked. "I want some chicken soup," he replied. She found it and he ate it. Then he wanted to see a photograph a fan had given him. The photo showed his wife in the early days. His maid was trying to find it when he collapsed. Barbara was walking toward the midway when she heard shouts of "Call 911." Her father was gone. His last circus was in the place where he had seen his first one.

LONG A PART OF HUGO

Miller and his circus have been a part of Hugo since 1942, when Vernon Pratt visited their winter home in Mena, Arkansas and lured them to Hugo with free rent and utilities.

In return, the Millers showed their animals on Sundays. In the years since, more than a dozen circuses have made Hugo their winter home, although we only have two at this time. Miller wanted a special section

of the cemetery set aside for circus families, so he purchased a section and called it "SHOWMAN'S REST." This was the destination of the 83-year-old showman.

Cindi Cavallini led the procession on Chopin, a black Friesian horse. Behind her were Gizmo & Bert, camels, the llamas, Lucky & Sam and three more Friesian horses. Then Susie, the 48-year-old elephant that was one of the first Miller bought.

The bandwagon, on loan from the International Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana was pulled by four Black Percheon Horses with a live circus band and a clown named "Popcorn." A 130-year-old horse-drawn hearse was pulled by two black Percheon

Circus Band in Funeral Procession

(Continued on page 17)



Circus Band at the Cemetery



**Visit Our All New
Website Today!**

www.nomispublishations.com

ONLINE DIRECTORIES

Updated Daily!

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY NEWS
Complete Issues Available Electronically!

AD BANNERS - BOXED ADS

WEBSITE & EMAIL LINKS AVAILABLE

For more information call 1-800-321-7479

The "e" Series Plans

Preneed Funeral Policies



For more information contact:

the Marketing Department
(800)657-6351
heritage@unitedheritage.com

A.M. Best has rated United Heritage A- (excellent) with a stable outlook*
"A-" in the fourth of 15 ratings assigned by A.M. Best for financial strength.

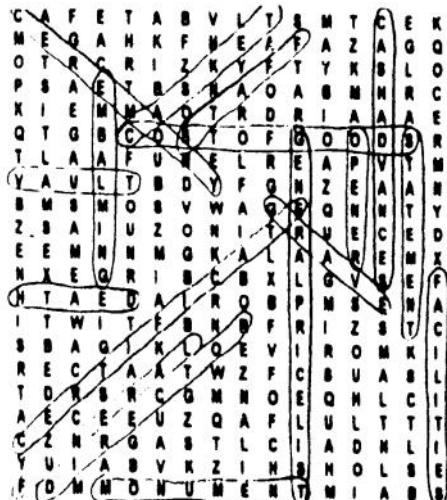
*For the latest rating access www.ambest.com

P.O. Box 7777 • Meridian, Idaho 83680 • unitedheritage.com

NOT INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES

- Single Premium / Guaranteed Issue
- 3-, 5-, 10-Pay / Full Benefit
- 3-, 5-, 10-Pay / Graded Benefit
- Two-Year Pay-Up Option (same as cash)
- Casket Protection (no restrictions)
- Increasing Death Benefit Credited Daily
- Inflation Protection Bonus
- Death Away From Home Rider
- Attractive Commissions
- Internet Claim Submission
- Internet Verification of Policy Values
- Applications submitted via the web

Answer to Word Search Relaxation



A Circus Farewell (Cont.)

(Continued from page 16)

horses. The oval glass sides of the hearse gave hundreds of people who lined the parade/procession route a chance to see Miller's fancy casket.

Rev. Goughnour said some words of comfort while the gold leaves of the sweet gum rode the breeze to the ground, the breeze on which yellow butterflies flitted in the sun.

Then it was over, they put "Dorey" as his friends called him in the 3,000 pound copper-lined vault. Two months after he died, three hours since the start of his funeral, Miller's body was at rest. Meanwhile, back at the big top, a trainer prodded Nina, one of Dorey's elephants who was disassembling the tent—"Nina, head down." He wrapped a massive chain around one of the stakes that was connected to Nina's leg. "Nina, pull up," was told to her as stake Nina took down Miller's big top.

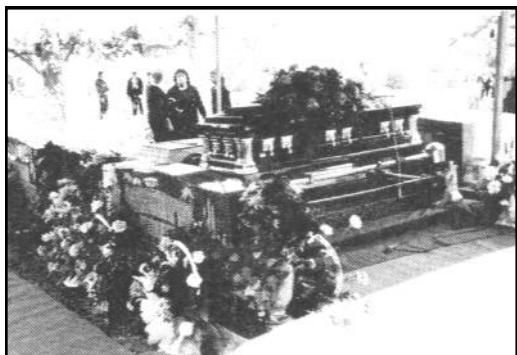
Back at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, friends continued to arrive to see the fresh mound of dirt atop Dorey. The leaves rode the wind to the ground, the yellow butterflies flitted and mingled among the mourners. Tent down. Grave covered. Spotlight dim. Show over. Nina head down.

As a small town funeral home, how do you handle such an overwhelming funeral service? First of all, we had two months to plan for this service. We had



Set-up at Cemetery

the help of the Hugo City Manager's office, police chief and fire chief. Also the Choctaw County Sheriff's Department and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol along with Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma helped. Invaluable assistance was given by Doyle Milson and Trey Key, liaison with both circuses. We provided four limos and a backup funeral coach. Services were by Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.



Casket at Cemetery

The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox

Volume: Ten Number: One Late Spring '09

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

The appearance , reference or advertisement of any product or service in this publication shall not be deemed an approval or endorsement of such products or services by the DB. This publication is not responsible for the return of any unsolicited material. Articles submitted and published in The Dead Beat are the express ideas and opinions of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the publisher and the staff of H.L. Pugh & Associates Consulting.

Subscriptions: Additional copies for U.S.A. are \$24.00/ 1 year (6 issues). For subscription, circulation, advertising assistance, write, phone or fax

H.L.Pugh & Associates Consulting
P.O. 145, Golden City, MO 64748

Toll Free (800) 575-2611 Fax (417) 537-4797

Email-editor@thedead-beat.com

Website: www.thedead-beat.com

Directory of Advertisers

Aaron Beasley Embalming Service & Crem.	Pg 20
American Crematory Equip. Co.	Pg 8
American Macular Degeneration Foundation	Pg 21
Baxter Vault Co.	Pg 5
CFL Pre-Need	Pg 11
Cherokee Casket Company	Pg 2
Clear Creek Coach	Pg 16
Columbia Cremation Care Center	Pg 12
Custom Air Trays	Pg 23
Dallas Institute of Funeral Service	Pg 8
Federated Insurance Co.	Pg 7
Fraley Funeral Supply	Pg 9
Global Mortuary Affairs	Pg 11
Hanley Coach Sales	Pg 26
Highland Hills Transport Service, Inc	Pg 12
Hoefer Associates	Pg 12
Lamcraft, Inc.	Pg 15
LJ Enterprises	Pg 2
Last Ride Motorcycle Hearse Co.	Pg 23
Mid-States Professional Services	Pg 27
Miller Coach & Limousine Sales	Pg 31
Mooney-Keehley	Pg 11
Nomis Publications	Pg 16
Pierce Chemicals & Royal Bond	Pg 24
Preneed Marketing	Pg 32
Schaefer Mortuary Service	Pg 4
Security National Life Insurance Co.	Pg 2
Springfield Mortuary Service	Pg 3
Superior Mortuary & Crematory Service	Pg 12
Texas Funeral Directors Association	Pg 18
Thomas & Sons Service Company	Pg 19
United Heritage Life Insurance Co.	Pg 17
Vantage Products Corporation	Pg 28
Weatherford Mortuary Service	Pg 12
Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc.	Pg 25

Our English Cousins (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

charge a flat rate to funeral directors or the public. In Manchester the fee was \$900.00. The funeral director usually paid this for the family. His other charges were \$600.00 for the coffin (wholesale for \$300.00), \$320.00 for embalming (the trade guy charges \$180.00), the charge of livery service (a hearse and limousine) and clerical charges brings the average funeral bill up to around \$2,500.00. Burials are rare, one man told me he had one every three months or so. There was no talk of an outer container, though I did see a fee for bricking the grave in the cemetery.

You ask, "Why are the funeral prices so cheap?" One word—the Co-Op. The Co-Op in England advertised care from cradle to grave. It provides groceries, appliances, and about everything needed for everyday life. This includes funerals. Many funeral directors are servicing members of the Co-Op and provide services at reduced costs. The Co-Op accounts for the major share of the funeral trade. This, of course, holds prices down for everyone.

When a death occurs, the family is responsible for filing the death certificate. They take it to the attending physician who certifies the cause of death and then they must take it to a second physician to confirm the first doctor's findings. Afterward the family takes the certificate to the local registrar who issues them a disposition permit. Then they take this to the funeral director who can then proceed with the arrangements.

The two main things that the funeral directors provided were attendance to the service details and livery service. Both of the firms I visited had new and well-kept vehicles. One firm had new Australian Fords, with a six-door limousine and the traditional glass hearse. His colleague down the street had a set of late model Jaguars.

Perspective

On my first reflection, I thought that the British funeral business was reminiscent of our funeral business in the late 19th and early 20th century when the undertaker mainly provided livery services and attendance. A nostalgic look back.

On second thought, however, it occurred to me that some very familiar trends were evident. Cremation is the norm. The im-

(Continued on page 19)



Texas Funeral Directors Association
Professionals Serving Texas Families Since 1886
1513 South Interstate 35
Austin, TX 78741
(800) 460-8332

Our English Cousins (Cont.)

(Continued from page 18)

portance of merchandise has become secondary. Facilities have been minimalized to lower overhead.

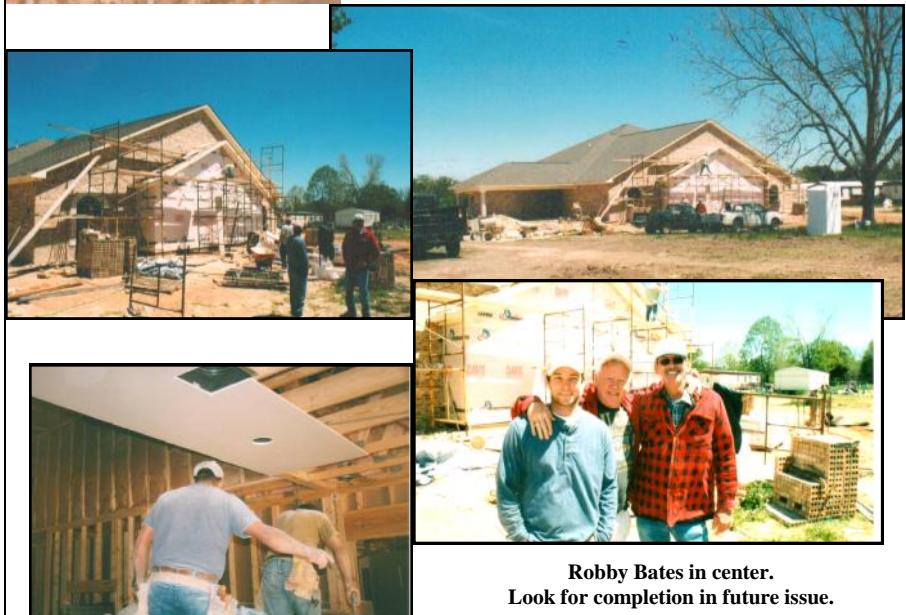
The concept of the Co-Op also rings an uncomfortable bell. Cosco already sells caskets. The Wal-Mart in our city has opened two urgent care medical facilities in two super centers here in co-operation with a local hospital. Storefront casket stores are a fact of life in many larger markets.

There are five medical research organizations with whom we deal on a regular basis, shipping remains all over the United States. The organizations provide free cremation for the donor families. This is in addition to the increase in direct burials and private graveside services with memorial services being held later.

Rather than reflecting the American funeral business a century ago, perhaps our British colleagues are the portend of our future.



Under Construction—New Bates Funeral Home in Dekalb, Texas



Robby Bates in center.
Look for completion in future issue.

THOMAS & SONS SERVICE COMPANY

1606 EAST McCARTY ST. JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
SINCE 1991

PROFESSIONAL REMOVAL, EMBALMING AND TRANSPORT SERVICE
COMPLETE SHIPPING SERVICES DIRECT CREMATIONS

COLUMBIA, FULTON, JEFFERSON CITY,
LAKE OF THE OZARKS
AND ALL OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-866-659-8222
FAX 573-761-5332

"OUR FAMILY SERVING YOUR FAMILIES"
MFDEA

Oklahoma Triker Gets One Last Ride

By Andy Gateley

"It was a perfect day for a ride," said Linda Pennanen, wife of Richard Pennanen. The sun was shining down on the beautiful Oklahoma prairie grass, and Highway 177 looked like a gray ribbon rolling over the hills north toward Carney, Oklahoma. This was not the ordinary ride she and her husband would take on a day like this, today was a special day. Richard had passed away April 18, 2009; today his family was giving him one last ride in the country, and what a last ride it was. Roaring down the country highway was a procession of trikes, motorcycles, cars and some things that resembled parts of both.

Roger Ford, "the Funeral Director for Ford Funeral Service in Midwest City, OK," and the Pennanen family had contacted Ty Conklin, owner of the Last Ride Motorcycle Hearse Co. based in Springfield, MO. Ty has helped bikers take their last ride all over the 4-State Region. "It's an honor to be asked to take a loved one or family member on their last ride to the cemetery," explained



Ty. Richard Pennanen was an Air Force Veteran and a member of the Third Wheel and Independent Trikers group.

Two Patriot Guards members with huge American Flags blowing in the wind led the procession on the 52-mile ride from Ford Funeral Home in Midwest City to the Carney Cemetery. Next in line was the Motorcycle Hearse, a Harley Davidson Softail trike is used to pull the custom-made carriage reminiscent of the funeral coaches used in the old west.

A leather carriage top, gas lamps, six-foot windows and chrome wire wheels with whitewall tires complete the old school look. Behind the glass gleaming in the sunlight, was a casket draped with the American Flag for all to see and pay tribute.

Following the hearse were two more Patriot Guard riders

with flags unfurled. Behind the guard riders came wife Linda and other family members in the family car, "all except Lisa who was riding Richard's trike." Next came the most interesting assortment of trikes I have ever seen. There were dozens of trikes and motorcycles all with American flags whipping behind them with the wind. Most cars pulled off on the shoulder showing respect, some got out saluting a veteran. One couple from Prescott, Arizona was so moved by the patriotic display they turned around and followed the procession to the cemetery just to pay tribute to a fellow veteran.

The friends and family of Richard Pennanen got to take a special ride to Carney that day, Richard's wife Linda said she couldn't believe how this last ride has made saying goodbye to her loving partner and best friend of twenty three years a little easier.

Special thanks to:

- ◆ Ford Funeral Service in Midwest City, Oklahoma for being so open-minded about such a non-traditional funeral service.
- ◆ The Patriot Guard for helping pay tribute to our Veteran heroes.
- ◆ The Last Ride Motorcycle Hearse Co. from Springfield for providing such an unique and memorable last ride for Richard.



**Aaron Beasley
Embalming Service & Crematory
1-866-410-2122**

*Quality Professional Care
Excellent Service
Fair Pricing
Statewide Cremation*

479-410-2121

Fax 479-410-2190

**SERVING FORT SMITH,
WESTERN ARKANSAS & EASTERN OKLAHOMA**



Introducing the New Continental Coverlet



Derry, NH—The Last Quilt Company, LLC is proud to announce the new Continental Coverlet™. Known for their quality, The Last Quilt Company is expanding their product line to include a lovely coverlet. The Continental Coverlet™ now allows the funeral home more options for Identification Viewing offered to families. With the increased demand for cremations in North America, more funeral homes are offering their families an opportunity for viewing prior to cremation. It is much easier to offer them this service if the setting for this viewing can be more comfortable and less institutional.

Until now, there were few choices. With the creation of the Continental Coverlet™, you can now offer your families an elegant look for less cost. The Continental Coverlet™ is made from an elegant brocade or jacquard textile weight fabric and does not contain batting like a tradition quilt. The Continental is decoratively top stitched for elegance and durability, and is lighter in weight, more modern looking, and less expensive, while maintaining the user-friendly cleaning method of a washing machine and dryer.

The Coverlet is specifically sized for use during an ID View. It is not as long as a removal cot cover and a little wider to gently cover folded arms and elbows. It is made of 100% cotton and matches all the Walkabout™ skirts. As with all of The Last Quilt Company's products, the Continental Coverlet™ is proudly made in USA. For more information please contact Marty Kovacs, CFSP by phone 603-887-5411, email [Marty @lastquilt.com](mailto:Marty@lastquilt.com) or visit www.lastquilt.com for latest information and color selection now available or to get a free catalog.

Who Knew??? - I was in the express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?" Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?

MACULAR DEGENERATION



Saving sight through research and education

MACULAR.ORG • (888) MACULAR • Northampton, MA
AMDF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, publicly supported organization

New “Consumer Fact Brochure” Available

Doric Products has developed a new **Consumer Fact Brochure**. The eye-catching brochure provides important information for families who are purchasing a burial vault. As with any industry, there are aspects of the burial vault industry that consumers cannot be expected to know on their own. The **Consumer Fact Brochure** tries to highlight these areas for the consumer.

One of the most important facts consumers will learn: what it takes for a product to be considered a true burial vault to the National Concrete Burial Vault Association. A key purpose of the vault is to prevent groundwater from entering and harming the casket. To accomplish this, a vault must be sealed and contain no drainage holes. The anatomy of a vault graphic identifies several other key features such as the steel reinforced cover and the poly-ribbed inner liner of a Doric vault.

Consumers often are unaware of the effects of equipment that is necessary in the everyday workings of a cemetery. A common piece of cemetery equipment, a backhoe, weighs approximately six tons. A burial vault must be manufactured to withstand this weight as well as the additional weight of soil. These are a few of the areas discussed in the **Consumer Fact Brochure**. Please contact your local dealer for a copy of the brochure or visit www.doric-vaults.com to locate the dealer nearest you.

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 is the only vault manufacturer that requires this independent audit.

“Dear Counselor....”

By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor,

I am confused by some of the changes made by Missouri's preneed legislation. Will the State Board grant funeral homes a grace period for making required changes?

The August 28th effective date of Senate Bill 1, and the changes to Chapter 333 and Chapter 436, is beyond the control of the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. August 28th represents a deadline that the State Board must prepare for, much in the same manner as Chapter 333 licensees will have to do.

While preneed trustees will be given until 2010 to bring existing trusts into compliance, most of the requirements will go into effect this August. One dilemma for licensees and the State Board is that the State Board's rulemaking authority regarding Chapter 436 issues does not become effective until August 28th (assuming the Governor signs the bill). The State Board will use that rulemaking authority to establish certain consumer disclosures that must be included in preneed contracts. For sellers who need a contract form ready for August 28th, the State Board may need to allow sellers to make consumer disclosures by a separate document if contract forms have already been printed and otherwise comply with the new requirements of Chapter 436.



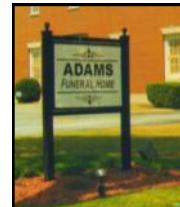
Bill Stalter answers our questions for educational purposes only. It is *The Dead Beat*'s intent to give the reader general information about legal issues, not to provide legal advice. If a reader needs legal advice, he or she should hire an attorney. Reading *The Dead Beat* should not be used as a substitute 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.preneedresource.com.

-
- 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](tel:1-417-537-4797)**
-

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.



Adams Funeral Home—Dublin, GA—Est. 1926

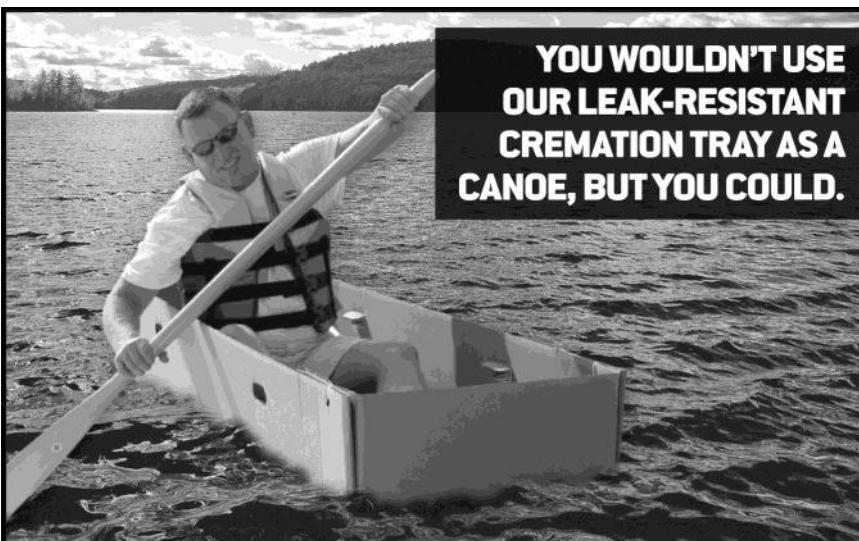


Ronnie L. Stewart Family Funeral Service, Vidalia, GA



Williams & Williams Funeral Home Savannah, GA





**YOU WOULDN'T USE
OUR LEAK-RESISTANT
CREMATION TRAY AS A
CANOE, BUT YOU COULD.**

We test ours in the lab so you don't have to test it in the real world.

1-800-992-1925 | CustomAirTrays.com



© Custom Air Trays



Magnolias by Edna Ellison (Submitted by Patti Henson, Linden, TX)



I spent the week before my daughter's June wedding running last-minute trips to the caterer, florist, tuxedo shop and the church about forty miles away. As happy as I was that Patsy was marrying a good Christian young man, I felt laden with responsibilities as I watched my budget dwindle.

So many details, so many bills, and so little time. My son Jack was away at college, but he said he would be there to walk his younger sister down the aisle, taking the place of his dad who had died a few years before. He teased Patsy, saying he'd wanted to give her away since she was about three years old!

To save money, I gathered blossoms from several friend who had large magnolia trees. Their luscious, creamy white blooms and slick green leaves would make beautiful arrangements against the rich dark wood



inside the church.

After the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, we banked the podium area and choir loft with magnolias. As we left just before midnight, I felt tired but satisfied this would be the best wedding any bride had ever had! The music, the ceremony,

the reception—and especially the flowers—would be remembered for years.

The big day arrived—the busiest day of my life—and while her bridesmaids helped Patsy to dress, her fiancé Tim walked with me to the sanctuary to do a final check. When we opened the door and felt a rush of hot air, I almost fainted; and then I saw them—all the beautiful white flowers were black. Funeral black. An electrical storm during the night had knocked out the air conditioning system, and on that hot



summer day, the flowers had wilted and died.

I panicked, knowing I didn't have time to drive back to our hometown, gather more flowers, and return in time for the wedding. Tim turned to me. "Edna, can you get more flowers? I'll throw away these dead ones and put fresh flowers in these arrangements."

I mumbled, "Sure," as he be-bopped down the hall to put on his cuff links.

Alone in the large sanctuary, I looked up at the dark wooden beams in the arched ceiling. "Lord," I prayed, "please help me. I don't know anyone in this town. Help me find someone willing to give me flowers—in a hurry!" I scurried out praying for four things: the blessing of white magnolias, courage to find them in an unfamiliar yard, safety from any dog that may bite my leg, and a nice person who would not get out a shotgun when I asked to cut his tree to shreds.

As I left the church, I saw magnolia trees in the distance. I approached a house...No dog in sight. I knocked on the door and an older man answered. So far so good. No shotgun. When I stated my plea the man beamed, "I'd be happy to!"

He climbed a stepladder and cut large boughs and handed them down to me. Minutes later, as I lifted the last armload into my car, I said, "Sir, you've made the mother of a bride happy today."

"No, Ma'am," he said. "You don't understand what's happening here." "What?" I asked.

"You see, my wife of sixty-seven years died on Monday, On Tuesday I received friends at the funeral home, and on Wednesday... He paused. I buried her." He looked away. "On Thursday most of my out-of-town relatives went back home, and on Friday—yesterday—my children left." I nodded.

"This morning," he continued, "I was sitting in

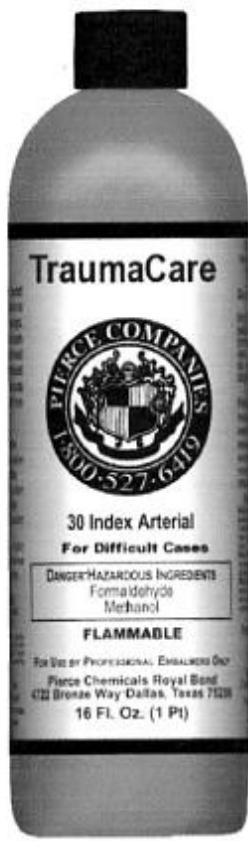
(Continued on page 24)

1914 EVERGREEN CEMETERY

**LAST RIDE
MOTORCYCLE
HEARSE CO.**

417-865-8885
Tv Conklin - Owner / Driver
Serving Missouri-Arkansas-Kansas-Oklahoma
www.LastRideMotorcycleHearse.com

[See Article on Page 20]



Introducing

TraumaCare by Pierce

- **30 Index**
- **Rapid Fixation**
- **Expedited Diffusion**
- **Simplifies Restoration**

- **Superb Case Results In Trauma, Geriatric or Normal**
- **With Non-Staining Dye**
- **For Superior Performance add Pierce Vitahue or Cosmo Dye**
- **Clarified Bleaching Action**

PIERCE COMPANIES

4722 Bronze Way • Dallas, TX 75236

800-527-6419 • 214-333-4230 • Fax 214-337-3658

Magnolias (Cont.)

(Continued from page 23)

my den crying out loud. I miss her so much. For the last sixteen years, as her health got worse, she needed me. But now nobody needs me. This morning I cried, ‘Who needs an eighty-six-year-old wore-out man? Nobody!’ I began to cry louder. ‘Nobody needs me!’ About that time you knocked and said, ‘Sir, I need you.’”

I stood with my mouth open.

He asked, “Are you an angel? The way the light shone around your head into my dark living room...” I assured him I was no angel. He smiled. “Do you know what I was thinking when I handed you those magnolias?” “No.”

“I decided I’m needed. My flowers are needed. Why, I might have a flower ministry! I could give them to everyone! Some caskets at the funeral home have no flowers. People need flowers at times like that and I have lots of them. They’re

all over the backyard! I can give them to hospitals, churches—all sorts of places. You know what I’m going to do? I’m going to serve the Lord until the day He calls me home!”

I drove back to the church, filled with wonder. On Patsy’s



wedding day, if anyone had asked me to encourage someone who was hurting, I would have said, ‘Forget it! It’s my only daughter’s wedding, for goodness’ sake! There is no way I can minister to anyone today.’”

But God found a way. Through dead flowers. “Life is not the way it’s supposed to be. It’s the way it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.”

Who Knew? ? ?

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom; the bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.

The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly.

As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card....

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully. “Give me one last request, dear,” he said. “Of course, John,” his wife said softly. “Six months after I die,” he said, “I want you to marry Bob.” “But I thought you hated Bob,” she said. With his last breath John said, “I do!”





At Wilbert, we understand that a memorial should be as personal as a fingerprint. Because a loved one's life is like no other, we offer families many ways to personalize our products.

For more information, contact your local Wilbert Licensee.

Wilbert and the Wilbert Script logo are registered trademarks of Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. © Copyright 2009 by Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. All rights reserved ADV-09050404 DB JUNE09

Wilbert[®]

HANLEY COACH SALES

Call 1-800-424-9093



2003 Cadillac Eureka 90" 5– Door Limousine— We have 2 in stock



2002 Cadillac Superior Coach



2005 GMC Denali



2005 Cadillac S & S Coach

<u>Coaches</u>		
2005 Cadillac S & S Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/ Blue Int	39,000 mi
2005 Cadillac S & S Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/ Blue Int	45,000 mi
2005 Cadillac S & S Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/Blue Int	40,000 mi
2004 Lincoln Eagle Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Gray Int	38,000 mi
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

Limousines

2005 Cadillac S & S 6-Dr	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	38,000 mi
2003 Cadillac Eureka 5-Dr 90"	Drk Blue Ext/Drk Blue Int	42,000 mi
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

Specialty Vehicle

2005 GMC Denali XLT	Wht Ext/Neutral Int	72,000 mi
---------------------	---------------------	-----------

**"We Deliver Anywhere
in the Continental U.S."**



2004 Lincoln Eagle Coach

**FINANCING &
LEASING AVAILABLE**

**(636) 728-0900 *
St. Louis, MO**

Authorized Dealer for





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.



Caudle Rutledge Funeral
Directors, Inc.
Tyler, TX



John R. Harmon
Undertaking Co.
Tyler, TX



Jackson's—Burks-Walker-Tippit Funeral
Directors
Tyler, TX

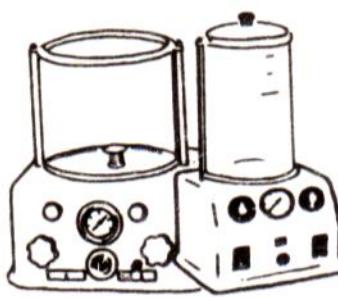


A Distributor of
FERNO-WASHINGTON, INC.
Mortuary Products



Cots, Church Trucks, Tables

**Mortuary
Equipment
Repair**



- Porti-Boy
- Edwards Duo-Tronic
- Dodge Needle Injectors
- Other Mortuary Equipment

Mid-States Professional Services

Dependable Service for 22 Years

201 S. 1st Street * Pleasant Hill, Missouri 64080

JAMES D. (JIM) BROWN

(816) 540-2377

(1-800) 252-5147

Funeral Tidbits

Those who are on the internet need to check out www.connectingdirectors.com. It's a site that provides information about various news items about the funeral profession and then people can blog. I never blog but I find the information rather interesting and thought I would share a few items the last few months. Maybe you heard the actual stories, but it's made me wonder about some people. Stories given were both positive and negative.

April 21:

Cubs-Inspired Cemetery Opens Wednesday —A cemetery was built for deceased Cubs fans with an interment area modeled after Wrigley Field's centerfield wall.

April 24:

Lasting Memories: Twist to Online Memorials— This service allows friends and families to upload photos and videos of the deceased and communicate and reminisce with each other.

April 30:

I Am Sad To Report the Death of A Funeral Home (Kathy Jackson's Funeral Industry Blog) - It spoke about the community versus cosmopolitan funeral homes and how the lack of community will lead to the demise of funeral homes who worry more about dividends instead of the families.

May 15

Free Funeral Planning for Drunk Drivers—to get people to stop and think before driving over the Memorial Weekend.

May 18

Finding Out Someone Died Via Social Networking? - When the person looked for someone on Facebook and was bombarded by memorials, they found out he had died the week before.

May 19

Staying Alive Online, Even After Death—Discussing all the online connections that need to be told to someone, so if you die someone will know they exist—mentioned a Legacy Locker account.

May 21

Obese Woman Dragged from Home, Hauled Away After Death—A 750 lb woman died and was not handled in compassionate manner.

May 27

Bodies Found in Funeral Home Bought at Tax Sale—A church bought a facility and when they inspected it there were four bodies left behind.

May 28

Lake Worth Man Sues Over Father's Wrongly Marked Grave—A man's grave had been mis-marked and not until his wife died and they wanted to bury her next to him did they find out the mistake.

Every day there are good and bad entries and this is just a sampling. Check it out.

East Texas Funeral Directors Association Spring Meeting & Dinner—April 9, 2009 Lindale/Mineola, TX

Golfing-
Garden Valley
Golf Club
Lindale, TX





VANTAGE
Products Corporation



Lisa Barlow
Inside Sales Manager
lbarlow@vantageproducts.com

960 ALMON ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30014
1-800-481-3303 FAX: 770-788-0361

East Texas Funeral Directors Association (Cont.) Spring Meeting & Dinner—April 9, 2009 Lindale/Mineola, TX



**Kitchen's Deli -Mineola, TX
Meeting, Eating,
Recognizing Achievements
& New Officers**



East Texas Funeral Director's Association 2009-2010

President : Oscar Aguilar—N. E. TX Transport
Sulphur Springs, TX



Vice President: Troy Murray—Croley Funeral Home
Gilmer, TX



Past President: Chris Stewart—Stewart Family Funeral
Homes—Tyler, TX



Secretary/Treasurer: John-Brent Beaty—
Beaty Funeral Home
Winnsboro, TX



Director: Ryan Allen—Tyler, TX



Sales Rep.: Gary Nelms—Wise Products
Honey Grove, TX



L to R: Chris Stewart, Oscar Aguilar



L to R: Troy Murray, Oscar Aguilar

Reprise of Article from Our Third Year
My Feelings by Ivy Douglas (daughter of Lowell
 Pugh, Publisher)
 Vol. 3 Issue 3—Sept/Oct., 2001

I should feel guilty. I simply cannot generate the same emotions, as everyone else seems to, concerning the attacks of September 11th. From day one, for me anyway, it has been surreal. There is sorrow, dismay, and anger yet I also feel impatience with the way the country carries on, day after day. Media reports that continue to rehash stories, pictures and personal accounts; movie stars and fundraisers stirring up the rest of the country. I stopped watching weeks ago.

Maybe it's because I used up all my grief for Oklahoma City six years ago. I was at work in the hospital the day it happened and participated as the disaster response unfolded. I knew someone who died there and sang at her funeral. I knew many others who survived or lost loved ones. It hit me hardest the day I drove in to work before sunrise and realized that the large lights I had seen everyday for weeks flooding the workmen's area during the night were shut off. They had finally given up. Yet, I remember this same feeling of impatience with the process in the aftermath.

Maybe it's because I'm a Christian. All of this was bound to happen some day. The only thing left to do is trust God to handle it. It does me no good to fret and moan. I have to believe that some good will arise from it all.

Maybe the real reason is that I'm the daughter of a funeral director and perhaps see things a little differently than others. Since I was a small child, the funeral business was all around me. It was my parents' and grandparents' livelihood. I would admire the flowers, the reading of the cards, the glittered ribbons, or seeing whom it was that loved the person lying in the casket. I'd look at the deceased and wonder about their life. If it was someone I knew, I'd always remember some little thing that they said or did. I saw firsthand how many facets grief has. I would listen to my parents discuss how family members had different needs and how to provide for them all. I admire them for their patience and finesse in handling the many demands made on them when planning a funeral. To this day I watch with fascination the various ways people deal with death and all the emotions surrounding it. Some need months to grieve before getting on with their lives and for others' grief is momentary. Some need to grieve loudly and let the whole world know they are suffering. Then there are those who lock it away deep inside, never allowing even one tear to be shed.

As for national disasters, unfortunately they will continue to occur and we as a nation will continue to respond in a variety of ways. But should I feel guilty for not jumping on the grief bandwagon with the rest? No. I think I have a better grasp of the reality of death and all of its repercussions than most people and I can be comfortable grieving in my own way in my own time.

Hilliard Funeral Home
 Van, Texas



Hilliard Funeral Home was established over 100 years ago. In 1896, George McIntosh Hilliard moved to Canton and opened a mercantile business with a funeral parlor in the back. The store sold hardware and

cloth supplies to make caskets, which people would purchase in order to build a final resting container for their beloved. In 1926, the duty of the funeral home moved forward. Around this time, Samuel Foster Hilliard, Sr., G.M. Hilliard's son, started buying caskets already assembled. They also utilized the home of the family for preparation, viewing and the service.

In 1928, another small step was made, and the first hearse was purchased. During this year, the Hilliard's began running an ambulance service along with the funeral business. After WWII, in



1945, three of Samuel Foster's five children, Curtis, Sam and Bryan bought out the business. They moved the funeral home out of the hardware store to a house located in Canton in 1948. They owned and operated the business at this location until 1975. In the meantime,

Bryan and his wife, Maxine, moved to Van, primarily because the small town did not have an ambulance. They ran the ambulance service until 1974, when the city took it over. The existing funeral home in Van was opened in 1960. The original building still stands today, though it has

been through many updates and additions. In 1991, Bryan branched out and purchased Fairway Garden of Memories Cemetery, and his son Keith, opened Fairway Crematory. These new additions help them serve their families in a closer, more personal way. Their goal is to alleviate any obstacle and added burden that a family may encounter at such a hard time. Today, the third, fourth and fifth generations, together, operate the funeral home.



Melissa Hilliard Rust, Keith and Sharon Hilliard



2009 FIRST CALL VANS, SUBURBANS & YUKONS
CHECK OUR PRICE BEFORE YOU BUY



2007 Lincoln Superior Hearse
Black/Black Interior
— Low Miles —



2003 Cadillac Krystal Hearse
Dark Blue/Blue Interior
— ONLY 15,000 Miles —
(UC09-013)



2003 Cadillac Krystal Six-Door Limo
Dark Blue/Blue Interior
— ONLY 10,000 Miles —
(UC09-014)



2003 Lincoln Krystal Hearse
With Matching Limo
— 34,000mi (HR) 5,500mi (LM) —
(UC09-026)



COMING SOON
Two (2) - Low, Low
Mileage
2005 Lincoln
Black Krystal Hearses
w/Oval Window

2001 Cadillac S&S Masterpiece
Black/Gray Interior
— ONLY 33,000 miles —
(UC09-022)



2002 Cadillac Eureka Six-Door
Black/Black Interior
— 47,000 Miles —
(UC08-059)



2004 Cadillac S&S Medalist
Black over White/Blue Interior
— 36,000 Miles —
(UC09-039)



2004 Cadillac S&S Six-Door
Black over White/Blue Interior
— 24,075 Miles —
(UC09-019)



Miller Coach & Limousine Sales

Dallas

1-800-822-9586

Frank@hearseandlimo.com

Sales * Service * Leasing * Rental

See our complete stock list at www.hearseandlimo.com

Denver

The Dead Beat

THE DEAD BEAT
H L PUGH & ASSOC CONSUL
P O BOX 145
GOLDEN CITY MO 64748-0145

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT No. 3019

**PRENEED
MARKETING
AD-**