

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox



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

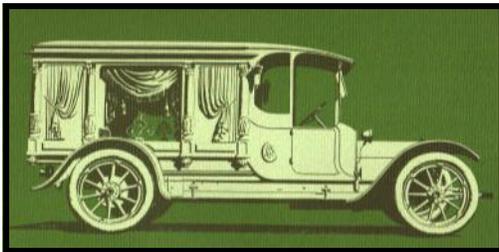
Summer, 2010

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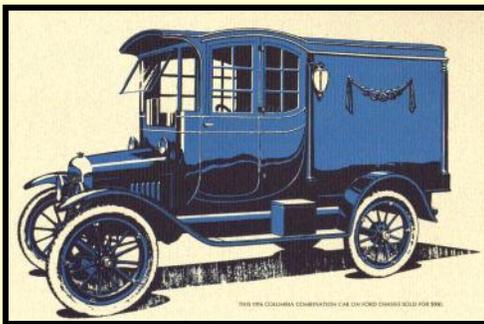
Hearses of the Past

(Sketches from Superior Coach Corporation)

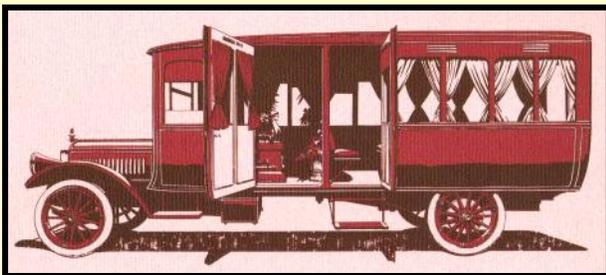


An ornate coach made by Leo Gillig Automobile Works in San Francisco between 1908 and 1914

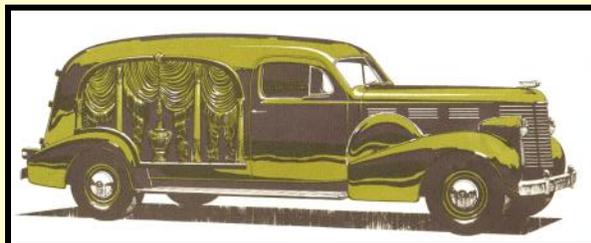
This 1916 Columbia Combination Car on Ford Chassis sold for \$900.



This 1919 Fitz Gibbon & Crisp Coach on a Pierce Arrow Chassis also carried a driver and 19 mourners and pallbearers



1938 Superior Funeral Coach on Cadillac Chassis



For the flip side of these pictures turn to page 21

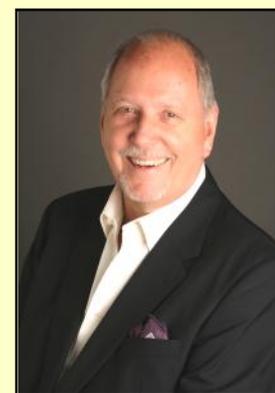
Other Articles in this Issue



Drinkwine Family Mortuary
Littleton Colorado
Pg. 4



Hazel's Park
Pg. 15



Arles J. Brown
Pg. 4

Amy Howard Art Gallery



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



Amy Howard



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Mortuary Muse*

*to think or consider deeply; meditate
By Lowell

Are mortuary colleges falling short in training new grads for real world employment? Would diminished academic requirements for embalmers make better funeral directors? That does not make sense. Colleague Hast seems to view the role of embalmers diminishing to the point that courses in the sciences are irrelevant. He would, however, pursue more training in unembalmed body presentation and cremation operation. Don't crematory operators need a little scientific knowledge of the process to keep the neighbors from calling the fire department?

Unless a student grew up in the business or has had a long term relationship with one, it is unlikely they will be up to speed fresh out of school. This is true of most all occupations. Since students come from many different states with varying requirements— this could be where the problem lies. Some politi-

cians think educational requirements for licensing and CE (Continuing Education) are a restraint on trade anyway. The whole system needs to be turned upside down. Here is an alternative plan.

Abolish all state educational requirements tied to funeral homes, directors, embalmers, preneed sellers or anyone else connected with death care. Require only standard business licenses, state, county and city, as stipulated for any business. License suspension or revocation would be governed by criminal acts processed through the judicial system. Civil suits might also apply.

The funeral profession would set their own standards of proficiency which could be used as a marketing strategy.

The code would be administered through whatever association or pro-

fessional group a service provider chooses to join. The association or group would set up their own rating system which would also be used as a marketing tool for the parent group and the individual establishments. A rating system that is similar to those used by the hotels and restaurant industries. I guess instead of stars we could use coffins.

Then the Everest company could not only advise consumers of the price of a funeral but also whether the firm was a four or five coffin rating.

Could associations and professional groups devise and administer a rating system without bruising a lot of egos? The groups are more competitive these days. One of them should try to form a rating system other than membership requirements filled with a check. Funeral service educators and the ABFSE (American Board of Funeral Service Educators) probably need not panic yet.

About the Author:

Lowell Pugh has funeral director in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 106-year-old family funeral home. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

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Arlen J. Brown, CMSP Colorado Celebrating 50 Years of Funeral Service



Arlen J. Brown

Arlen served his funeral apprenticeship at Chapel of Memories and Swan Funeral Home in Colorado Springs, CO in 1956 & 1957 prior to attending and graduating from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in September 1960 and passed his National Board exam in 1960. He became a licensed Funeral Director / Embalmer in Colorado in January 1961.

He was General Manager of Swan Funeral Home in Colorado Springs, CO for 15 years. He also owned and operated Farnum-Brown Mortuary in Glenwood Springs, CO from 1972 – 1977 and worked 20 years with Service Corporation International.

During Arlen’s career with SCI he served as District Manager, Assistant Regional Manager and Regional Vice President. In his various roles with SCI, Arlen managed all aspects of funeral home and cemetery operations including customer service, general operations, budget development and execution, human resource management, preneed and at-need sales and business development.

He served 3 years as Executive Vice President/COO for Sentry Group Services, Inc. based out of Ft. Worth, Texas.

In 2007 Arlen and his family opened The Springs Funeral Services in Colorado Springs, CO. He remains active as an owner, officer and Funeral Director. The Springs Funeral Services has in only 2 ½ years become a leading funeral home with a reputation for unmatched service, professionalism, compassion and quality in Colorado Springs.

Arlen is a board member for the Colorado Funeral Directors Association and currently a candidate for President of the board.

Arlen is married to Terri Flores-Brown and between them they have seven children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Arlen currently has five generations of Brown’s living in the Colorado Springs, CO area.

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Colleagues Lost or Found!!!

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



Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell & Joanne

Who needs mortuary school trained embalmers anyway? You can surely get an embalmer to train your preneed secretary or groundskeeper in the basics of embalming. Why waste time and money on irrelevant studies?

Several of the funeral industry/professional commentators have lamented that mortuary educators are not preparing students for real employment out in the field. The American Board of Funeral Service Educators, ABFSE, was singled out in **Mortuary Management**, July, 2010, for not modernizing mortuary school curriculums. Part of the problem Ron Hast, MM publisher, expressed were irrelevant subjects for embalmers and funeral directors including anatomy, chemistry and microbiology. It appears that he thinks the Science should be removed from the Art and Science of embalming. Ron supports his case with the remarks from Richard Callahan, expert witness on death care. Callahan was reported as failing to come up with an explanation to a federal judge who asked what was scientific about embalming. Their conclusion? There was no science

to embalming.

Ron acknowledges that embalming is the best method for body presentation, but now disputes that embalming is also a public health issue. He cites a CDC credentialed source. I do not believe he detailed the source's credentials or the scenario presented to the individual. Ron seems to feel that funeral homes are using public health issue to sell embalming to the clients. Along this train of thought he feels that most often using gloves while making first calls is an affront to families' sensibilities when they have been caring for the deceased at home.

For some time now Mortuary Management has been encouraging more emphasis on unembalmed body presentation with refrigeration and cold pack techniques or "Green Embalming."

The July/August issue of **Mortuary Management** generated a number of responses in the September, 2010 issue, both supporting and disagreeing with Ron's opinion regarding embalming and public health issues. Melissa Johnson Williams, CFSP and Executive Director of the American Society of Embalmers refutes Ron's premise point by point. Including:

- ◆ **Melissa:** Recommending not wearing gloves might violate OSHA requirements about blood-borne pathogens. (Ron quotes OSHA about "gloves shall be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that the employee may have had contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes and non-intact skin.")
- ◆ **Melissa:** Questioned Ron's credentials he was basing his opinion on due to the continuing changing health issues causing deaths that could endanger funeral personnel making pickups. (Ron countered that you could get all these bacteria anywhere, but mostly by sneezing and coughing— which the deceased would not do)
- ◆ **Melissa:** Commented on the studies related to infectious diseases (Ron mentioned those "cutting into" body need to execute caution, but pickups were "beyond sensibility and reality" to worry about.
- ◆ **Melissa:** Gave information about OSHA PPE and search on undiagnosed diseases. (Ron comes back with OSHA's "sensible analysis of circumstance," which could include not using gloves.)
- ◆ **Melissa:** Takes issue with Mr. Callahan's lack of science in embalming. She comments that it is necessary to do the job properly.

I totally agree with Ms. Williams views on the matter. Of course, as publisher of MM and Funeral Monitor, Ron can always have the last word by relegating responses to the opinion category while his views are setting the record straight, with no rebuttals to his additional comments.

Considering the e.coli and salmonella bacteria may remain alive on your kitchen cabinet for four days and the new wave of super bugs coming into the country, let us err on the side of overprotection. As to the concerns about mortuary school curriculum my views are expressed in Mortuary Muse in this issue.

About the Author: Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 105-year-old family funeral home. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

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After-Thoughts *By Joanne Howard*

“A Heart that has lost the will to sing is like a butterfly with a broken wing.” (Harriette B. McCormick)

I’m wondering if I’ve lost my will to sing. Lowell says I keep doing things to find happiness. I’m pretty sure I haven’t found it yet. Everything I try seems to just add more stress to my life.

This week I decided to do a Pampered Chef Cooking Show at my house. I’m a consultant, just completing my first year of shows. (One of those things looking for happiness.) Well, in order to get ready I had to clean house. I mean really clean, clean house. In order to do this I had to tackle my daughter Amy’s room.

Now to bring you up to the present. Amy passed away August, 2003 from a car accident when she was 19 years old. Laura our other daughter died December, 1997 from bacterial meningitis when she was almost 11 years old. My mom Evelyn Sprouse just died on May 20 of this year.

In this bedroom was Amy’s, my mom’s, my husband Claude’s and my stuff to sort through. If you’ve ever had to deal with sorting through things of people who have passed away, you know how hard it is. You are bombarded by memories, many tears flow and you just aren’t really sure you are doing the right thing. Should I throw this away? Should I give this to some-

one? Does anybody really care about any of this but ME?????

I don’t think people really care, but it still has to be done. Especially if something happened to my husband and I, no one would be left to deal with it.

One of the main problems is that it took days and left me really depressed, luckily I was able to take off work, in other words, no funerals.

Back to the cooking show, I hadn’t done a show for quite a bit of time and I felt that I really didn’t cover things as well as I should have. So guess what, it just added to an already depressing time.

So today I’m putting all the products back away and then I noticed the picture I have of Amy on the wall with Kindergarten through her senior year in High School. We did it for her high school graduation. But where’s Laura’s pictures? Why haven’t I had a set of Kindergarten through 5th grade pictures done for her? She deserves the attention too. Why I haven’t thought of it before blows me away? I have a page in one of my photo albums of what I am talking about. But do I know where the photo album is? Not yet, but I’ll look and frame it.

I know this is silly since she would be 23 years old this year if she hadn’t had the death detour. But I feel guilty like I forgot about her. In the Dead Beat we’ve shown Amy’s artwork, but what

about Laura? Even though her picture has been in the Dead Beat since it began in the advertisement for scattering in a natural environment.

I need to get off this depressing line of thinking and be grateful for the blessings I’ve had. These blessings brought many tears this week. And the cooking show brought together a group of twelve women, we shared our feelings, our laughter and some good food. Maybe it wasn’t as bad as I thought. I must dwell on blessings that’s where my happiness will come from.....

Thanks God for the blessings you’ve given and for the “will to sing.”

Update since this column was written. Room still needs a bit more work, but a lot more organized. Found the photo album with Laura’s pictures, now above Amy’s pictures. And I am still “singing.”



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@thedead-beat.com.

ASAP

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

“There’s work to do, deadlines, to meet;
You’ve got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry,
ASAP— ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.”

“In the midst of family chaos,
“Quality time” is rare,
do your best, let God do the rest”
ASAP—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like our worries
Are more than you can bear,
Slow down and take a breather—
ASAP —ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is,
He wants to ease our cares,
And he’ll respond-
ASAP—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

Today I am saying a prayer that God
will smile on you, and send you all
the special blessings you deserve.
Pass it on A.S.A.P.



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A Parent Dies
By Ken Doka

"I suppose there will be a lot of widows in the group," Gail speculated. "I know everyone loses parents. I know she was just a mother," she contritely stated.

As I was interviewing potential clients for a grief support group, Gail's comment struck me as strange. *Just a mother?* This was the woman who brought her into the world, raised her, and even as an adult was her best friend, companion, frequent babysitter, and an always available source of support.

I understood her confusion. We expect to outlive our parents. The death of a parent is a normal event in adult life. It is something most of us experience.

Yet, all those truths do not make it any easier. The death of a parent is difficult for so many reasons.

The loss of a parent often is our first, significant experience of death—and our first encounter with grief. We may be stunned by the intensity of our reactions, by the roller-coaster nature of the grief process, and by the very many ways that grief affects us. Even though we may have expected to experience these emotions, we may be shocked at their intensity. Also, we may not have fully realized all the other reactions of grief: the difficulty concentrating, the physical experiences, the spiritual questions, and even the ways that grief changes our behaviors. We may even be surprised by how long these reac-

tions seem to last.

The loss of a parent may affect us in other ways as well. When one parent dies we may be thrust into new responsibilities—caring for the surviving parent, for example. The death of a parent creates a "developmental push," as we may have to learn new skills where, even as an adult, we depended upon a parent.

The loss of a parent or parents can lead to other changes as well, compounding feelings of loss. We may have to close our childhood home. Without the centering role of a parent, holidays and family gatherings may be held in new places with varying family members. It may seem like the larger family just doesn't get together like it once did.

There may be psychological changes as well. As long as our parents are alive, we feel protected. Now we may feel more alone. One of my clients, an older, very successful woman, once shared that as long as her parents were alive she felt that even if everything went sour, she could always go home. Now she confessed, she felt strangely vulnerable. We may even become more aware of our own mortality, adding to that sense of vulnerability.

It is difficult when a parent dies. We need not be ashamed of our grief. We readily would acknowledge the effect of a parent's death on a twelve-year-old child. Why do we somehow think it would be easier if that child were now fifty-two years old?

We need to develop our strengths—to learn how to cope with loss. What has helped us in the past? How does our faith speak to us? What support is available—from friends or family, within our faith community, hospice service, or community? What rituals can we develop that can help us remember and honor our parents at appropriate times? What skills do we need to learn? What memories will we hold and share? What are the legacies that our parents have imparted to us that are now part of our lives?

If this is our first loss, we can hone our ability to live with loss. That can be a final gift from our parents.

This article was originally printed in *Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement*, published by Hospice Foundation of America. More information about *Journeys* can be found at www.hospicefoundation.org or by calling 800-854-3402 and is published monthly by the Hospice Foundation of America, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20009. Annual subscription-\$12.00.



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

(And a heck of a nice guy— Editor & Publisher)

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Chuckles

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

Just A Tap on the Shoulder

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the still shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me." The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle the driver so badly. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely MY fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab..... I've been drive a hearse for the past 25 years!!!

Can you imagine the Nun sitting at her desk grading these papers, all the while trying to keep a straight face and maintain her composure! Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the Bible even a little, you'll find this hilarious! It comes from a Catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John, the blacksmith, dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

Comments and Requests

I enjoy the Dead Beat. I also like to wander in old grave yards to see all the writings. I thought these pictures were odd.



I hope you can help me find a book written by a retired funeral director. I loaned my book out and the person lost it. I cannot remember his name or the book title. I believe he was from CA.

Some of his stories I can remember. A lady brought a can of tomato soup, his favorite—to be cremated with. Another lady brought a blanket so her husband would not get cold before he also was cremated.

Another lady offered him several hundred dollars to skin her husband—he had ink drawing from head to his toes, she settled for pictures. I will pay for the book plus postage.

Thanks,

Bob Byrd, 3826 Zion Hill Rd, Weatherford, TX 76086

...I really enjoy reading your publication each time it comes in the mail, and want to be sure that I receive each issue. Keep up the good works!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thanks ya much!

Madison A. Davis, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory
St. Joseph, Missouri.

.....What an incredible publication!

Nancy Hutson, Cycle Connection, Joplin, MO

21. The people who followed the lord were call the 12 decibels.
22. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew, who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preach holy acrimony which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Four college seniors decided to drive to a posh golf resort for a weekend of golf and partying instead of studying for the big final exam in calculus on Monday. Each had a good grade going into the exam, so they figured they would just cram on Sunday night. As it turned out, they met some beautiful women at the resort and golfed and partied with them until Sunday midnight. While driving back, they all agreed that they would tell the professor that while driving home they had a blowout and didn't have a spare, and they would beg to take the exam late.



Well, their little scheme worked. When they showed up for the makeup exam on Tuesday, the professor was there with four exam booklets. He led each to a separate room, handed him a book, and told him he had two hours to complete the test. The first question, worth five points, had to do with the chain rule as applied to limits. An easy question. Each felt at ease, thinking the whole test would be a

cinch.

The second question, worth ninety-five points: Which tire?

(Continued on page 11)



Chuckles (Cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

The Amish and the Elevator

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again. The boy asked, "What is this, Father?" The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is." While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small circular numbers above the walls light up sequentially. They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous, voluptuous blonde woman stepped out. The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son, "Go get your mother."



Karen R. Trowbridge

Fictionary

(From Fictionary Dictionary, by Jim Marbles)

Antacid: Uncle Acid's wife

Antelope: How she married my uncle

Antibodies: What's left after you spray bug spray

Bernadette: The act of torching your bills

Burglarize: What a crook sees with

Cartoonist: What you call your mechanic

Crestfallen: Dropped Toothpaste

Decrease: De fold in De pants

Despise: De person who works for de C.I.A.

Dilate: When a person lives longer

Eclipse: What a barber does for a living

Elixir: What a dog does to his owner when he gets a treat

Eyebrows: What I do when I go shopping

Foreclose: Why teenagers go to the mall

Infantile: Ceramic floor covering in the nursery.

Loveable: Affection for a male bovine

Paradox: Two Physicians

Primate: Removing your spouse from the computer

Radiate: Why the roach died

Relief: What a tree does in the spring



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Subdued: Like, a guy, who like, works on, like, a submarine

Tweeze: What Elmer Fudd finds in a forest

Vitamin: What you do when friends drop by for a visit

Withdrawal: How people in Texas speak

Seniors Arise!!

Let's put our Seniors in jail, and the criminals in nursing homes!

Seniors would have access to showers, hobbies, and walks, they'd receive unlimited free prescription, dental and medical treatment, wheelchairs, etc., and they'd receive money instead of paying it out. Seniors would have constant video monitoring so they could be helped instantly if they fell, or needed assistance. Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be ironed and returned to them. A guard would check on them every 20 minutes, and bring their meals and snacks to their cell. They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose. They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counseling, pool, and education. Simple clothes, shoes, slippers, P.J.'s and legal aid would be free for Seniors upon request. Private, secure rooms for all, with an exercise outdoor yard with gardens. Each senior could have a PC, a T.V., a radio and daily phone calls. There would be a board of directors to hear complaints, and the guards would have a code of conduct that would be strictly adhered to.

The "criminals" would get cold food, be left alone, unsupervised with lights off at 8 p.m. and showers once a week. The criminals would live in a small room and pay \$5,000.00 per month, and have no hope of ever getting out.

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues

ILLINOIS

Clara R. Lesicko, 85, of New Douglas died August 4, 2010. She was a Matriarch of Lesicko Funeral Home with her husband George. She served as funeral director assistant for 27 years and then received her license and remained active another 26 years. She was a pioneer in EMT service along with her husband. Arrangements were under the direction of Lesicko Funeral Home in Livingston, Illinois. *(Her husband was also a classmate of The Dead Beat publisher Lowell Pugh in the mid 1950's at St. Louis Mortuary College.)*

IOWA

Karl Mansfield Hertz, 62, of Malvern died April 16, 2010. He was Iowa Funeral Directors Association District 4 governor and owner of Mansfield-Hertz Funeral Home in Malvern. He graduated from California College of Mortuary Science in 1968 and returned home to join his parents at Mansfield Funeral Home along with their monument business and ambulance service. He purchased McKee Funeral Home in Carson and in 2003 the Raynor-Hardiman Funeral Home in Glenwood. In 1997, their son K.E. joined the family business. He was a 40-year member of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association.

KANSAS

Georgia Domoney, 87, of Downs died August 12, 2010 in Centennial, Colorado. She co-owned Domoney Furniture and Funeral Home until selling out to their nephew Dewey in 1982. Arrangements were handled by Domoney Funeral Home.

Kathleen Marie Moreland, of Osawatomie died September 1, 2010. She was the wife of Joe Moreland of the Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the direction of Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home.

Sergeant Nicholas Scarpelli, 29, of Overland Park, passed away August 20 from injuries he sustained in a traffic accident in between stops on his delivery route as an Artco Service Representative. His duties also included delivery and installation of YMS showrooms throughout the Companies' territories.

MISSOURI



D.V. "Dude" Clairborne, 88, of Jefferson City died September 23, 2010. He served as pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WW II. He traveled the state of Missouri representing Batesville Casket Company and retired after 50 years of service. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Freeman Mortuary.

LeRoy Davis, 71, of Lincoln died October 3, 2010. He graduated from the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science. He'd grown up in the funeral home of his dad, Fred Davis & Son Funeral Home in Lincoln. In 1982 he managed Ewing Funeral Home in Sedalia. His services were under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Mark A. Scott, of Florissant died October 1, 2010. He was a funeral director for Stygar Funeral Homes for 20 years. Services were under the direction of Stygar Florissant Chapel.

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

NEBRASKA



Jerry L. Draucker, 79, of Ogallala died July 15, 2010. He graduated from California College of Mortuary Science in Los Angeles, CA. He passed the exam of the Nebraska Funeral Boards and was issued a Funeral Director and Embalmer License in 1951. Following his military service in the Navy as a medical corpsman, Jerry returned to Nebraska. He joined his father in business in 1953. He and his wife Barbara purchased the funeral home in 1971. Among the many years of service and awards in the funeral industry, he served on the State of Nebraska Department of Health Board of Funeral Examiners from 1990 to 2000. He received his fifty-year pin in 2004. In 2001, Draucker Funeral Home celebrated 50 years of being in business in Ogallala. His services were handled by Draucker Funeral Home.

NEW MEXICO

Louis Taylor Miller, 77, of Hobbs died July 28, 2010. He was born in Mart, TX and he worked for Littlepage Furniture Store and Funeral Home. At the age of 12 he decided to make a career in the funeral profession. He was a Korean War Veteran and after the service he enrolled in Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science and got his degree. In 1957 he bought a percentage of Singleton Funeral Home and Resthaven Funeral Home in Lubbock. Louis not only served the people of Andrews and area as their funeral director, he was involved in the funeral profession on the State and National level. He was hired as general manager of Hubbard Kelley Funeral Home in Odessa and as funeral director at Memorial Park Funeral Home/Cemetery in Memphis, TN in 1986. In 1991 he came to Hobbs, NM and worked at Chapel of Hope Funeral Home and 1995 retired after 50 years in the funeral profession. He didn't stay retired from the profession completely and returned to Tennessee and made road trips for a removal/embalming service. He returned to Hobbs in 2003 and permanently retired in 2008 due to health reasons. His arrangements were handled by Chapel of Hope Funeral Home in Hobbs, NM.

OKLAHOMA

Edna Mae Wilson, 103, of Pond Creek, died on March 26, 2010. She was founder of Wilson Funeral Home in Pond Creek.

TEXAS



Elizabeth Faye "Beth" Allison, of Liberty, died August 16, 2010. She was a licensed funeral director for 50 years, mother of Scherry Allison, TFDA Past President, associated with the Allison Funeral Service. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Allison Funeral Service.

Hershel Randall (Randy) Hanner, of Atlanta, died on August 31, 2010. He was a licensed funeral director over 50 years with Hanner Funeral Home. Hanner Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

(Continued on page 21)



Denotes Veteran of Military Service

I Love the House That Isn't There Anymore—by Ivy Douglas



The House



Hazel's Park Today

I love the house that isn't there anymore
The big square rooms and wooden floor
Stained glass in the window frame
A place to laugh and play without shame
I love the house that isn't there anymore

Sandstone pavement, trees galore
Tiger lilies beside the drive
A place where jonquils and raspberries thrive
I love the house that isn't there anymore

Square couch cushions to lie on the floor
Round lion table, old fashioned clocks
Watching of birds, kitchen table talks
I love the house that isn't there anymore

Freezer and cobwebs through the rock room door
Painting, feathers, roosters and masks
All the love that a child can ask

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.

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Hazel's Park was named after Lowell's mother whose house is mentioned in the poem above by Lowell's daughter, Ivy, which is no longer there. It is across the street from the funeral home shown in the bottom picture. The ga-



zebo is in the middle of the park and the sandstone mentioned is next to the gazebo at this time. It has a walking//biking path throughout the park.



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Smile

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
And someone saw my grin
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him

I thought about that smile
Then I realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel around the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected!



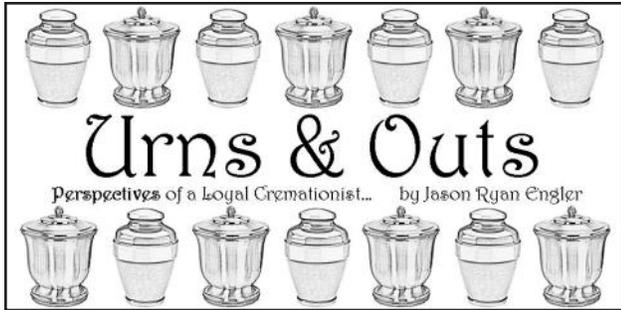
Peace

Signs of Inner Peace

- Frequent attacks of smiling
- A loss of interest in conflicts
- A loss of interest in judging self
- A loss of interest in judging other people
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- Loss of the ability to worry (This is a very serious symptom)
- Increased tendency to allow rather than force things to happen
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of Appreciation
- A tendency to think and act spontaneously
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others and the uncontrollable urge to extend it

Thoughts

1. If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.
3. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.
4. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
5. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
6. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious
8. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
12. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
13. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.
14. Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
15. No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
16. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
17. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
18. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
19. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
20. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
21. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
22. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
23. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
24. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world
25. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.



Even as an advocate of cremation, I am constantly astounded at the ever-increasing number of families who are choosing cremation for themselves or a loved one. Even those who have historically opposed the rite have come to terms with it being a rival form of disposition. Funeral homes everywhere are installing cremation apparatus in their facilities; Catholic Diocesan-owned cemeteries are opening cremation centers and crematories on their properties—and local congregations are bringing Columbaria into the church buildings.

Numerous families are requesting to put in writing their prearranged wishes for cremation over burial, and many are even cancelling their previous burial arrangements (often taking a loss in monies) only to turn around and prepay their cremations (and most of them with services).

The trend is clearly headed in that direction.

But what is it that is causing this sweeping trend? Is it that funerals with a loved one present in a casket is becoming “old fashioned” and archaic? Is the heaviness of burial being overtaken by the lightness of cremation? Is the downbeat economy causing the upward swing in the torch over the spade? Is it that families everywhere appreciate and accept this method of preparation for final disposition? The Cremation Association of North America has cited numerous factors in cremation’s domineering acceptance: from its mobility and flexibility, to environmental concerns and religious ties, the tradition is changing. No longer can funeral professionals use “traditional” as a synonym for burial.

For the church, I believe that cremation is a means to keep parishioners involved in the church—even after death. Since the beginning of cremation’s “modern history” many churches (especially the Episcopal Church) have embraced cremation in order to bring all of life’s cycle back into the church. Around 1976, The Reverend George Hodges, Dean of Episcopal Theological Seminary at Cambridge University, when asked his opinion of cremation, made the statement, “Cremation will make possible a revival of the old custom of laying the dead away in churches. There would be no more removal of the relics of the dead out of our sight...” Now, all denominations are coming to this realization.

For funeral professionals, February 20, 2002, was a day of reckoning. Before this date in cremation’s history, it was often easy for funeral directors to ignore and disparage the subject; send the decedent away to an out-of-sight and out-of-mind retort, collect for the services, and send the family on their way, with an urn under their arm. That sounds a bit harsh, but I remember hearing the grumbles and threats of funeral home owners in the 1990’s. But Tri-state Crematory was the day that funeral professionals (and people everywhere) stopped and paid close attention to cremation. The debacle didn’t daunt cremation’s advance, rather it took a surprising turn and opened the eyes of families and funeral professionals to the practice. Now, decedents are very rarely carried away to out-of-sight buildings. Crematories are becoming more aesthetic, viewing rooms are being added, and families are being invited in. Now, funeral practitioners can no longer ignore, tolerate, or even accept cremation—the time has come for us to own it!

It’s about time! Welcome to the future!

That’s my perspective.

Jason Ryan Engler is a Funeral Director in Northwest Arkansas. He has studied cremation and its history throughout most of his life. He can be reached at:

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues (Cont.)

(Continued from page 14)

Wilma Jean Jones, of Rockdale died on September 1, 2010. She was the partner of Phillips & Luckey Funeral Homes in Rockdale, Caldwell & Giddings, and mother of Wallace Jones & Stephen Jones of Rockdale. Arrangements were directed by Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home.

Lillian JoAnn Martin, of Odessa died September 12, 2010. She was mother of Tammy Martin-Vallie and mother-in-law of Bill Vallie, past president and board member with Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. Arrangements were directed by Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home.

Lee Roger Pool, Jr., 75, of Seminole, died on August 24, 2010. He was former owner of Roger Pool Funeral Home in Seminole. Services were under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Kathleen Simon Thompson, of Ft. Worth, died on August 21, 2010. She was the wife of Guy Thompson who had preceded her in death just the month before. He was owner of the Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home who also directed her services.

Craig Zimmerman, 80, of Bay City, passed away on August 11, 2010. He was a longtime funeral director in the Rosenberg area and has been with Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home for many years as well as working at Taylor Brothers Funeral Home part time. Arrangements were under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg.



Hearses of the Past (Cont)



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Hearses of the Past (Cont)

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1970 Superior Crown Royale Landulet on Cadillac chassis



1970 Superior Royale Landulet on Pontiac chassis



1970 Superior Sovereign Landulet on Pontiac chassis



1970 Superior Royale Landulet on Pontiac chassis



1970 Superior Sovereign Landulet on Cadillac chassis



1970 Superior Crown Sovereign on Cadillac chassis



1970 Superior Consort Landulet on standard automotive length Pontiac chassis

1971

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1971 Superior Sovereign Limousine on Pontiac chassis



1971 Superior Sovereign Limousine with removable landau panel on Cadillac chassis

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“Dear Counselor....” By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor,

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Generally speaking, laws are presumed to be prospective in nature, and can only be applied to conduct or transactions that occur after the law’s effective date. The Constitution prohibits “ex post facto laws” which would criminalize conduct that occurred prior to the law’s passage. However, legislatures can pass laws that impact existing contracts if certain requirements are satisfied.

First, if the legislature intends a law to be applied to existing contracts, the law must expressly state that it is to be applied retroactively. This was an issue raised regarding the Ohio preneed law. An Ohio funeral home is fighting the State Board over new preneed contract portability requirements because the law did not state it could be applied to existing contracts. The Ohio funeral home is relying upon the rule that a law can only be applied to future contracts in the absence of notice of retroactive application. In contrast, Missouri’s new preneed law includes several provisions stating the intent to apply to existing preneed contracts.

Another requirement for a retroactive law is that it does not violate the “Contract Clause” of the Constitution (the impair-

ment of contracts). In a 1983 decision, the Supreme Court established a three-part test to determine if a law violates the impairment of contracts provision: First, does the state regulation substantially impair a contractual relationship; second, if the law does impair a contract relationship, does the state have a significant and legitimate purpose behind the regulation (such as the remedying of a broad economic problem); and third, the law must be reasonable and appropriate for its intended purpose.

With regard to whether Missouri reporting requirements can be applied to preneed contracts sold prior to August 28, 2009, funeral homes who want to fight the law on these grounds have an uphill battle. While the law does impose significant duties on the insurance companies and banks that administer existing preneed contracts, the funeral home will have to prove the new duties substantially impair the relationship. If the banks and insurance companies are continuing their relationships for new contracts, the argument has been weakened with regard to the first and third parts of the test.

If the funeral home should prove the first part of the test, Missouri regulators will hold up NPS as justification for the new reporting requirements.

What may concern some Missouri sellers is whether regulators will use the new law to force changes in their existing trust arrangements.

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 or bill@stalterlegal.com or editor@thedead-beat.com
[Or Fax: 1-417-537-4797](tel:1-417-537-4797)



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

Leading the Way in Funeral Service Excellence

Brookfield, Wis—The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) announced the 2010 award recipients of it’s “Pursuit of Excellence” program. Out of 181 registrants, 166 firms have been recognized with the “Pursuit of Excellence” Award for their commitment to raising the bar on funeral service excellence by adhering to strict ethical and professional standards and providing outstanding service to families and communities. Award recipients will be honored on October 11 at the All-Star Recognition Ceremony and Reception during the 2010 NFDA International Con-

vention & Expo, October 10-13, in New Orleans, La.

Interest in NFDA’s premier recognition program continues to grow. This year, an increased number of program participants earned the “Pursuit of Excellence” Award for the first time—21 first-time participant firms earned recognition, an increase of 23% over 2009. Additionally, the number of international program participants (NFDA-member funeral homes outside the U.S.) increased from one in 2009 to three in 2010. NFDA also noted that more firms applied online to the program in 2010. Nearly 50 participants took advantage of the improved online application process, which brings greater convenience to program participants.

For our readers the award recipients in our 11 states will be mentioned:

(Continued on page 23)

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- ◆ Humphrey Funeral Service Inc, Russellville, AR
- ◆ Memorial Funeral Home, San Juan, TX

Other award recipients in our circulation area are:

- ◆ Adair Funeral Home, Tucson, AZ
- ◆ Aspen Mortuaries, Lakewood, CO
- ◆ Bring Funeral Home Inc, Tucson, AZ
- ◆ Callaway-Jones Funeral Home and Crematory, Bryan, TX
- ◆ Cobb Funeral Home, Blytheville, AR
- ◆ Cozean Memorial Chapel, Farmington, MO
- ◆ Cozine Memorial Group, Wichita, KS
- ◆ Crist Mortuary & Mountain View Cemetery, Boulder, CO
- ◆ Evergreen Mortuary, Cemetery and Crematory, Tucson, AZ
- ◆ French Mortuary, Albuquerque, NM
- ◆ Garnand Funeral Home, Inc., Garden City, KS
- ◆ Holman-Howe Funeral Home, Lebanon, MO

Leading the Way in Funeral Service Excellence

(Continued from page 22)

“Pursuit of Excellence” “Best of Best” - Only ten are awarded this honor. Our area winner was Olinger Crown Hill Mortuary, Cemetery & Arboretum, Denver, Colorado.

NFDA Hall of Excellence inductees which have received 10 previous awards in our area include:

- ◆ Bring Funeral Home Inc., Tucson, AZ
- ◆ French Mortuary, Albuquerque, NM

- ◆ Humphrey Funeral Service Inc, Russellville, AR
- ◆ Kerrville Funeral Home, Kerrville, TX
- ◆ Lentz Funeral Home, Algona, IA
- ◆ Memorial Funeral Home, Edinburg, TX
- ◆ Memorial Funeral Home, San Juan, TX
- ◆ Ochiltree Funeral Service & Aftercare, Winterset, IA
- ◆ Olinger Andrews Caldwell Gibson, Castle Rock, CO
- ◆ Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary & Cemetery, Littleton, CO
- ◆ Olinger Hampden Mortuary & Cemetery, Denver, CO
- ◆ Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO
- ◆ Olinger Moore Howard Mortuary & Cemetery, Denver, CO
- ◆ Olinger Woods Chapel, Golden, CO
- ◆ Roland Funeral Home, Atlantic, IA
- ◆ Roller-Ballard Funeral Home, Benton, AR
- ◆ Roller-Chenal Funeral Home, Little Rock, AR
- ◆ Roller-Crouch Funeral Home, Batesville, AR
- ◆ Roller-Daniel Funeral Home, Searcy, AR
- ◆ Roller Funeral Home, Mountain Home, AR
- ◆ Roller-McNutt Funeral Home, Conway, AR
- ◆ Roller-Owens Funeral Home North Little Rock, AR
- ◆ Smith Family Mortuary, Derby, KS
- ◆ Strode Funeral Home, Stillwater, OK

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17 Dirty Details on Death from iMortuary.com

iMortuary.com released a very fun and interesting infographic detailing 17 truly weird funeral industry facts and stats.

“We’ve been dugg!!” from iMortuary.com Website. “We have scoured the internet to fine these odd and bizarre facts related to death throughout culture, history, and even celebrity. If you enjoy these truly weird facts and stats, please feel free to share.

1. Talerger’s Safety Coffin developed in 1829, allowed the “deceased” to ring a bell and alert the graveyard workers in case of being buried alive
2. Prior to the twentieth century, some European families would hire professional mourners to either look sad or wail, adding the right tone to a funeral.
3. Humans aren’t the only ones who bury their dead. Both elephants and chimpanzees have been know to throw leaves and branches over deceased members of their “families.”
4. In 1992 Playboy founder Hugh Hefner purchased the crypt beside Marilyn Monroe at Westwood Village cemetery for the price of \$75,000. He said, “Spending eternity



next to Marilyn is too sweet to pass up.”

5. Tibetan sky burial is the ritual practice of cutting a body into pieces and offering it to the vultures. These “sky dancers” transport the soul to the heavens to await reincarnation.
6. \$2,000 is the price of the average casket in the U. S. (Costs can go up to \$10,000 or more.)
7. A small cemetery in Hattiesburg, Mississippi is located in the middle of an apartment parking lot.
8. About 3 billion people (more than half the world’s population) viewed on TV or gathered in London for Princess Diana’s 1997 public funeral.
9. Llano, Texas is home to the unfortunately named Baby Head Cemetery.
10. Each year, the United States buries enough caskets to equal-30 million feet of hardwood, 90,272 tones of steel and 2,700 tons of copper and bronze.
11. Offering of flowers placed at the grave were originally brought to promote good will with the spirit of the deceased.
12. The traditions of playing loud, raucous music at an Irish wake originated with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits; the wake also present an opportunity to watch over the “deceased to see if they would “awaken.”
13. Michael Jackson’s memorial service was organized by



(Continued on page 25)

GLOBAL MORTUARY AFFAIRS MOVES TO LARGER FACILITY DUE TO UPRECEDENTED GROWTH

Dallas, TX: July 1, 2010. Global Mortuary Affairs, LLC has relocated from 117 W. Main St., Mesquite, TX to 424 S. Bryan Belt Line Rd., Mesquite, TX.

David Patterson Owner/Operations Director stated that the new facility allows Global Mortuary Affairs to better serve their customers through the new and much larger 4000 Square Foot facility. The new facility offers to our clients the following:



David Patterson

- ◆ Inside pick up and drop off of remains out of the weather and providing privacy.
- ◆ Larger updated embalming facility.
- ◆ Private Autopsy suite that allows funeral homes to offer private autopsies to the families they serve.
- ◆ TSA Approved Cargo Screening Facility.
- ◆ 24 hour Mortuary Transfer Point.
- ◆ Dedicated Administrative Staff for death certificates and burial transit permits.

Patterson said the Mesquite location is the Gateway into the Dallas/Ft. Worth Area and eases our clients burden of the traffic. Patterson also noted that the larger

facility and location has allowed Global Mortuary Affairs, LLC to spin off Global Mortuary Logistics to provide 24 hour access to DFW and Dallas Love Field Airports for picking up or dropping off



remains that have been prescreened, therefore making all human remains shipments 100% compliant with the NEW TSA Regulations.

We invite our clients and friends throughout the country to stop by and tour our new facility. David and Kaye would like to thank the countless funeral directors and funeral homes that have supported Global Mortuary Affairs, LLC since it began. For more information on Global Mortuary Affairs, its staff and services go to www.globalmortuaryaffairs.com.

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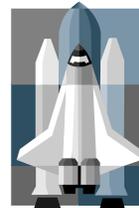
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17 Dirty Details on Death from iMortuary.com (Cont)

(Continued from page 24)

Jackson's concert promoter, AEG Live. In just 24 hours of an online ticket lottery. 1.2 million fans applied for one of the 17,500 free tickets.

14. Burials at sea are still performed in this day and age. There are strict regulations, with most states required that the body be dropped at least 3 nautical miles from land in water at least 600 feet.
15. Measured by area— The largest tomb in the world belongs to 16th Century Japanese Emperor Nintoku. Measured by volume—the honors go to Egyptian Pharaoh Khuku.
16. 67% of flowers purchased in the U.S.— including those used for funerals—are imported from other countries.
17. Growing trends in body disposal include turning cremated remains into a wearable diamonds or shooting a small amount of the cremains up into space.





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Annual Continuing Education Event Held in Oklahoma in August of 2010

By Ken Whittaker

August 17th and 18th, 2010, there was an annual continuing education event held in Oklahoma for funeral service licensees from Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. This was the 5th anniversary for the event to be held in Oklahoma City and the 6th anniversary for the event to be offered in Tulsa.

Sponsors for the event were Ray Francisco Companies of Tulsa, Oklahoma Mortuary and Limousine Service of Oklahoma City and Pierce Companies of Dallas, Texas. Mr. Ray Francisco of Tulsa, Mr. Wade Jackson of Oklahoma City, Mr. Jack Connell, Vice President and Sales Manager with Pierce Companies of St. Louis, Missouri and Mr. John Firestone, Chairman of the Board of Pierce Companies, Dallas, Texas were all involved with helping to coordinate and fund this 2 day event. The actual planning and arrangements were coordinated by Mr. Randy Emmert, Sales Representative for Pierce Companies who is responsible for covering the state of Oklahoma as part of his business travels for Pierce.

The actual event consisted of 2 days offering three 2 hour programs each day in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Tuesday, August 17, 2010 the event was held at Cattleman's Steakhouse

in the Stockyards near downtown Oklahoma City. Wednesday, August 18, 2010 the same programs were offered at Freddie's Barbeque and Steakhouse in Sapulpa, Oklahoma on the edge of Tulsa. Tuesday, August 17, saw nearly 120 in attendance in Oklahoma City and Wednesday, August 18 saw nearly 100 in attendance in Sapulpa making this the largest crowd to have attended this free event. This event provided the continuing education credit for those licensees that needed it for their license requirements.

Both funeral directors and embalmers were able to benefit from the subject material which made up this year's agenda. The first program

(Continued on page 27)



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Annual Continuing Education Event (Cont.)

(Continued from page 26)

was entitled “Can the Best Embalmers Around, Still Learn Something”? This was followed by “The Importance of Ethics in Funeral Service”. Following a hearty lunch, the final program of the day was entitled “Personalizing Funeral Service in This Day and Time”. Refreshment breaks offered during each of the sessions allowed the attendees the opportunity to stretch and refresh themselves and visit with fellow colleagues that helped make the opportunity an even more educational event.

The presenter for each of the programs was Ken Whittaker, Consultant and Education Director for Pierce Companies, Dallas, Texas. Ken has been responsible each year this event has taken place to get approved in each of the target states where licensees came from and provide the variety of ideas that made up the agenda for each event. For over 33 years, Ken was an instructor and Dean of Students with the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and chose in December of 2008 to change responsibilities and travel the country providing educational programming in funeral service and promoting Pierce Companies and Pierce Mortuary Colleges nationwide.

A number of those attending responded as to how much they appreciated this opportunity being offered and they would be looking forward to next year’s return.

NFDA Assists “Sesame Street” with Distribution of Grief Resource Kits to Funeral Directors

Brookfield, Wis—The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) is partnering with Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind “Sesame Street,” to distribute **When Families Grieve**, a bilingual (English and Spanish) multimedia resource kit, featuring the Muppets from “Sesame Street,” for young children and families who have experienced the death of a parent.

When Families Grieve was created as part of Sesame Workshop’s *Talk, Listen, Connect* initiative, the goal of which is to help families cope with difficult transitions. Sesame’s outreach initiatives harness the power of the “Sesame Street” Muppets to aid the communication between adults and children through strategies and language that are child-appropriate and useful for the whole family.

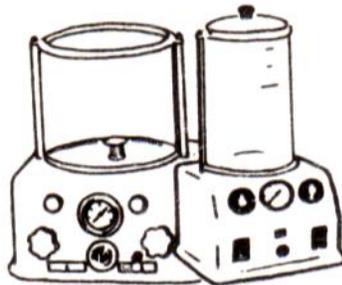
Free copies of the kit will be available to funeral professionals attending the 2010 NFDA International Convention & Expo, October 10-13 in New Orleans, LA, in the NFDA Central area. Any funeral director can obtain up to three free printed copies of the **When Families Grieve** kit for use in their funeral home and community by emailing their request to grief@sesameworkshop.org; kits are available while supplies last.

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was Director of Operations. The V. P., Mike Noble, has 30 years of management experience in the professional vehicle industry. He served as VP of sales for Accubuilt from 1985 to 2000. The team managers, Art Bicknell, Rick Davis have a

combined 30 years of coach building experience in all phases of production with Superior / S&S of Ohio and Accubuilt.

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Funeral Home Opens Pub in Garage

Providence, Rhode Island city officials have granted a liquor license to the owner of an east side funeral home, clearing the way for the business to open an Irish pub inside.



Mark Russell, who operated Monahan Funeral Home, plans to convert a garage attached to the funeral home into a pub, which will be called McBride's.

"Inside there will probably be seating for 55 to 60 people," Russell told Eyewitness News. "There will be a full kitchen. It will serve pub grub."

Area business owners aren't thrilled with the idea of a bar opening in the upscale area. To keep neighbors happy, Russell has agreed to several restrictions. Closing sooner than other establishments is part of the compromise. They will close at 11 p.m. during the weeknights and midnight on weekends.

"Our reputation has been here in Wayland Square since 1934, and on the east side of Providence since 1876," Russell said. "We'd never allow something to develop that would be adverse to the neighborhood."

Russell hopes to have McBride's open by March 1, which would be just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Editor Note: This information was given to us from a couple different sources, but Connecting Directors had a few comments on their site about the article that may be interesting—original title of article "Tough Times, Funeral Home Opens Pub in Garage."

One person comments, "I'm not sure I understand the headline. "Tough Times." We have had our liquor license for approx. 6 months and it had nothing to do with tough times. It has everything to do with service to our customers in a changing world. We have had a very good response to our new offerings. They fit naturally into the funeral experience."

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CCMS Faculty Member Elected to APFSP Board

Cincinnati, OH -- September, 2010 -- Raymond A. "Randy" Williams, CFSP, has been elected to the eight-member Board of Trustees of the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. Williams, instructor and manager of the clinical embalming laboratory at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (CCMS), was elected to a six-year term and will be installed October 12, at the NFDA convention in New Orleans.



The Academy promotes continuing education and life-long learning among funeral service practitioners. It is best known for its administration of the Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) certification program. "It is an honor to serve on the Academy's Board of Trustees," says Williams. "I share the Academy's belief that continuing education is the most effective way for funeral service practitioners to provide the most knowledgeable level of service to families."

CFSP certification requires 180 hours (18 CEUs) across a balanced spectrum of academics, professional activities, career review and public education and service. Twenty hours (2 CEUs) are needed annually for renewal.

"I'm proud that each of CCMS's licensed faculty members has earned and maintains CFSP certification," notes Williams. "We are not only better able to serve our students, but as their mentors we are encouraging life-long learning."

"Randy Williams' election to the APFSP Board of Trustees is one impressive example of the active roles the CCMS faculty takes in funeral service organizations, often in leadership roles," says Karen Giles, president of the college. "Their involvement significantly strengthens our program, for they are providing our students the most current professional information and insights." Industry organizations served by CCMS faculty include:

- British Institute of Embalmers, North American Division (chairman and a member)
- American Board of Funeral Service Education (member and program committee)
- Ohio Embalmers Association (secretary)
- Ohio Mortuary Response Team (two members)
- Ohio Funeral Directors Association (member and education committee)
- Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice (board member)
- Association of Death Education & Counseling (fellow)

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The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox

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