

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox

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



Late Fall, 2008

www.thedead-beat.com

Volume 9 Issue 4

“Rolling Work of Art- The Art Carved Funeral Coach” (Prinzing Motor Company)



**Art-Carved Panel Coach- Serial #1
For Bob Neal & Sons Funeral Home
Morrliton, Arkansas**

The Prinzing Motor Car Company has proudly introduced their latest “Rolling Work of Art”—The Art Carved Funeral Coach. This car is the art work and design of Max Prinzing, a long time auto body stylist and sculptor. Max Prinzing has designed and built many unique body styles for private collectors and celebrities world wide, and was the first to build and demonstrate a

100% alcohol-powered car in the 1970's. This latest creation is built like a modern day fire truck. A beautifully styled and highly specialized, purpose-built vehicle that has been designed from the ground up to serve for many decades. The timeless and classic lines of all Prinzing models capture the emotions and the imagination of all who see it, and presents a strong, indelible marketing image like no other professional vehicle can.

For this auto, beauty is far more than “skin deep,” and this is where the Prinzing really shines—at the fiscal bottom line. It's timeless design lines do far more than just “tickle the eyeballs” of your public, and generate dropping “WOW” factor, but they shelter you from the consistent body style changes that are an eternal expense associated with Detroit-style commercial chassis. With this concept, the owners are able to break free from the relentless 5 to 7 year lease/purchase cycle and control their cost even further by returning their timeless professional cars to the factory for a complete, warranted re-manufacture.

This art-carved Panel Coach, Serial #1, was recently delivered to Bob Neal & Sons Funeral Home in Morrliton, Arkansas. The styling of this car re-

**Art-Carved Panel Coach- Serial #1
Side and Back**



(Continued on page 18)

Other Articles in this Issue



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Amy Howard Art Gallery



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



Amy Howard

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.



Greenlawn Funeral Homes'-
Pitts Chapel
Bolivar, MO
See Pg. 4 for
100th Anniversary story

Scattering Cremains in a
Natural Area

Native Grasses and Flowers
Reaching to the Sky



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

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

For information contact:

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Mortuary Muse*

*to think or consider deeply; meditate
By Lowell

A memorial service was held April 20, 2008 at the Al Faw Palace in Iraq. Soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were remembered by members of the services and civilians who had worked with them. This was the fifth annual EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) memorial service conducted by Task Force Troy. Fifteen brave souls from Task Force Troy were remembered this year for their ultimate sacrifice.

These are the people that daily deal with the IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), roadside bombs to us civilians — the things that everyone else is taught to avoid.

Col. Kevin Lutz, Task Force Troy commander was host for the ceremony and Major Gen. Rick Lynch, Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division was the guest speaker. He offered heartfelt thanks for the job EOD had done "...and the sacrifices the 15 service members honored made for

their country..." Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Todd, NCOIC, Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell, said, "... EOD is truly a family."

The senior enlisted members from each service branch of Task Force Troy placed the identification tags of each fallen EOD tech on the task force EOD memorial piece.* The fallen were toasted and a moment of silence was observed before the benediction and close of the ceremony.

In the same newsletter the above story was taken from, Sgt. Luke Baldwin made some touching comments in his "Editor's Letter" that could apply to any grieving person or family. His letter was entitled, "Life of Tags," but his thoughts touched on other poignant issues, too.

Sgt. Baldwin reasons that the mundane objects we carry in our pockets, electronic gizmos, a wallet, pictures of a sweetheart, become "... Pieces of reverence when we carry them to the moment of death...A last

tangible link to existence."

So it is also with the clothing worn at the moment of death. The fabric shelters the last viable matter among the filaments of its composition....to become another keepsake—carefully boxed —and saved — to remember a loved one lost.

For the members of our armed forces that ever present metal identification tag may be the ultimate personal reminder of a comrade lost. Sgt. Baldwin commented about the solemnity and reverence of the senior NCOs as they moved ever so slowly and placed upon the Task Force Troy EOD memorial piece the fifteen tags that were once—"dangling from the neck so close to a beating heart."

**See Back Fence on Pg. 5 for further explanation.*

About the Author:

Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 104-year-old family funeral home. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

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Greenlawn Funeral Home's Pitts Chapel Location Celebrates 100 Years

(Information from Sarah West's Article in Bolivar, MO News)



it all, embraces technology that helps it to grow and anticipates developing new ways to serve the community."

Sidney and Dora Hutcheson started selling caskets at their furniture store in Bolivar during 1908 and a year later opened Hutcheson Funeral Home. In 1940, their daughter Dorothy and husband Earl Pitts joined the funeral home.



Chapel

Sidney Joe (Earl & Dorothy's son) and wife Earlene joined the funeral home in 1954 when it became Pitts Funeral Home. Mike (Sidney Joe and Earlene's son) was added to the staff in 1975 and his wife Teresa in 1996.

Greenlawn Funeral Home of Springfield acquired ownership of the funeral home in 1996. This added to their other locations in Springfield and Branson. Manager Greg Bird, who joined the company in 1999, said Greenlawn Funeral Home strives to give the community the same kind of service it



Jake and Jason Diemer, Greg Bird

"Pitts Chapel of Greenlawn Funeral Homes has a rich 100-year history to celebrate. What began as a furniture store is now a thriving funeral home business that warmly remembers the people who started



received when the Pitts family held the reins. When Mike or Earlene are requested by the customers this request is usually fulfilled.

"As a company, we have to be able to balance traditional styles with technological upgrades, but ultimately we still have to be able to give caring service," Greg said.

Pitts Chapel is the only funeral home in southwest Missouri that announces funerals on a flat screen television. Digital photos are displayed in a slideshow on a frame above the guestbook. And since 2006, instead of making funeral arrangements



Front of Chapel

with pen and paper. The arrangements are completed on a large, flat screen television that allows family members to see each selection and to consider casket options without visiting the casket room. The television screen is also used to complete death certificate and veteran information.

The software also allows the family to see the exact price of each option and a running total. The family also assists in the composition of the obituary on the large screen. The customer's involvement provides the benefit of being less stressed out as they leave.



Monuments

Greg has commented on several challenges he's faced even

(Continued on page 8)

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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

Apex Casket Announces "The Pewter Silver"

Apex Casket is pleased to announce our "The Pewter Silver," 18-gauge metal casket with gasket. The Pewter Silver features chrome column corners with Pearl white velvet interior. This casket gives our funeral homes a luxurious casket offering at a price that is affordable for even the most budget-minded family. Apex continues its commitment to quality and innovation at a very affordable price with this Pewter Silver Casket. The price to the funeral home is \$650; standard delivery included anywhere in the continental U.S. for \$100.00.

Apex continues to bring a full line of affordable quality caskets, both traditional and innovative, to our funeral directors. We have a continued commitment to provide the funeral industry with quality products in conjunction with competitive pricing. Watch for more new product releases in the coming weeks.

To see Apex's entire product line, go to www.apexcasket.com.



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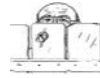
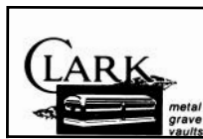
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Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

In Mortuary Muse I give a brief glimpse of the fifth annual EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) memorial ceremony held by Task Force Troy in Iraq. The information came from a copy of the unit newsletter, The Defuse, given to us by one of the soldier's relatives. We would like to have reprinted the story in its entirety along with an essay by newsletter editor, Sgt. Luke Baldwin but we do not have permission at this time. We have paraphrased the account using only a couple of quotes as we would in a book review.

Too many Americans have only a detached view of our armed forces' way of life in Iraq or other locations. While we may be enjoying the guns and butter mentality that some politicians prefer, terror doesn't win, if we call for sacrifices by the civilian population.

Here is something to think about. A group of veterans and brothers moved by the difficult stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan created a non-profit 501(c)3 organization named "The Wounded Warrior Project". The foundation provides funds and support to military families caring for their loved ones at military medical facilities. The resources provided to the families are above and beyond the budgetary constraints of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

The support can also include plane fare, accommodations, food vouchers or other associated travel expenses. Eligible families can also use benefits for necessities such as childcare, mortgage and rent relief while visiting service members. The foundation relies on fundraisers and the generosity of others which allows it to offer compassionate solutions for Wounded Warriors and their families. Families are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

Go online to learn more about the Wounded Warrior Foundation at: www.woundedwarrior.org.

I think this would be a good place to allocate some Christmas charity giving or some that sometimes questionable PAC money.

About the Author: Lowell Pugh has funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the 104-year-old family funeral home. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

After-Thoughts

The Long Walk

By Joanne Howard

I just finished my first three-mile walk with the dog in a long time. I probably walked three miles or more when I was mowing the lawn. But this was the first time I had walked the dog this far in quite awhile. Of course, I had this foot problem and started wearing foot pads which seem to help the situation. But I really hadn't planned on walking this distance. I was walking the regular path and in the distance I saw the hill that we used to walk to and I just kept walking.



On my way back I wondered if this had the makings of my talk for the remembrance service. The walk reminded me that grief is a journey that takes us past our regular path and we meet each new challenge by continuing to keep going on with our lives. Not that there is an end in sight, but you have to just keep plugging along through the pain until it eventually gets better.



I was totally enjoying the fall day and the sun was bright and invigorating. I passed cows that I hadn't had interaction with for quite

awhile. They were on the land next to the part of the road I hadn't been traveling. It was comforting to just be having experiences that I had had before. In our grief walk we have memories that we come across just like the cows. Things haven't changed, but it's just good to remember again even if it might bring a little sadness too.

As we reached the halfway mark on the walk, we turned around for the trip back. We had made it to the hill I had seen in the distance at the beginning of the walk. We hadn't gone very far and on the left side of the road coming out of the trees was a totally white cow. As I walked back, I thought the cow might represent a light at the end of the tunnel, even though this was only the halfway point. But it seemed like an encouragement to keep going, a light showing the way back. The white cow also seemed to symbolize we were doing a good job by accomplishing the longer than usual exercise. Truthfully it seemed like God saying, "Keep it up, you're doing a great job!" In fact when we finally returned to our home, I even said thank you to God for allowing us to complete the longer walk.



So what happens in our grief journey? When is that halfway point? Who knows? But I like to think that God is there all the time and when we need that, "Keep it up, you're doing a great job," He's there for us. He's the white cow, the light at the end of the tunnel, or just the light along the way for us to see.

Our grief walk takes us to areas and distances that we have never been to before. We need all the help that we can get to follow the path of adjustment and eventually find our way back home or to some normality in our lives without our lost loved ones.

Maybe we don't really find our way home until we meet God and our loved ones in heaven. We can thank Him for the help along the journey as I thanked Him for the great walk I had on the beautiful fall day.



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.

When I say Good Morning, I mean to say:

G-od
O-ffers us His
O-utstanding
D-evotion to

M-ake us
O-bedient &
R-eady for a
N-ew day with Him.
I-nspire others please, and
N-ever forget
G-od loves you



Have a Blessed Day!!!

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Greenlawn Funeral Home's Pitts Chapel Location Celebrates 100 Years (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)



The Open House
Celebration

though he has the technological advance such as timeliness in the pickup, meeting the expectations of the public and educating the public about funeral arrangements, hospice and bereavement programs. It has been beneficial to have the Greenlawn monument and vault business in addition to the crematory available to offer to customers.

The Pitts Chapel has been remodeled except for the kitchen which still has family evidence of heights, initials and dates on the wall and a stairway referred to as the "Pitts family graffiti wall."

With the use of technology in arrangements coupled with old-fashioned community-friendly service, Pitts Chapel is a blend of tradition and modernity.

An open house was held October 4 with a formal recognition of the history of the funeral home with a display of historical photos, refreshments, door prizes and give-aways.



The Open House
Celebration



2008 Sales Award Winners for Doric Products, Inc.

Doric Products, Inc., a leading manufacturer of burial vaults in the United States and Canada, is pleased to announce the 2008 Sales Award winners. Doric dealers were recognized at the Annual Dealer meeting in Kerrville, TX. There are several overall awards and the remainder are presented to the top dealer in each division.

Winners of the overall awards: "#1 Dealer Sales Award" - **Concrete Vaults, Inc. (Newton, KS)**. The award is given to the Doric licensee with the largest sales total for the prior fiscal year. Steve Vincent, President of Doric Products Inc., presented the award to Jim Wiens, President of Concrete Vaults, Inc.: "Greatest Number Sold" - Master Grave Service (Bogart, GA); "Top Cremation Products Sales Award" - **Concrete Vaults, Inc. (Newton, KS)**; "Daisy Chrisom Award" - Rocky Mtn. Monument & Vault, Inc. (Salt Lake City, UT); "Overall Greatest Percentage of Increase" Division I—**D of K Vault, Inc. (Iola, KS)**; Division II - Southern Ohio Vault Co. (New Boston, OH); Division III—Northwest PA Burial Service (Cochran, PA); Division IV—Century Vault Company (Oxford, MA).

Winners in the Phoenix Category follow - "Greatest Number Sold-Phoenix: Division I—**Concrete Vaults, Inc. (Newton, KS)**; Division II—Rex Vault & Mausoleum Service (Newton, IL); Division III—Harn Vault Service (Massillon, OH); Division IV—Brewster, Inc. (Millville, NJ); Division III—**C & M Precast (Kerrville, TX)**; Division IV—Marion Vault Works (Marion, IN).

Patrician Category winners were: "Greatest Number Sold—Patrician" Division I—Carolina-Doric, Inc. (Florence, SC); Division II—Vanden Boomen Burial (Appleton, WI); Division III—**C & M Precast (Kerrville, TX)**; Division IV—Marion Vault Works (Marion, IN). "Greatest Percentage of Increase—Patrician: Division I—**Baxter Vault Company (Baxter Springs, KS)**; Division II—Esterly Burial Vault Service

(Continued on page 20)



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Keeping Healthy Even as We Grieve

By Ken Doka

Grief is fundamentally bad for our health. It is a painful process to deal with the loss of someone we love. We suffer so much emotional turmoil. The physical pain seems to go with the emotional pain.

And we do experience physical pain. Grief can affect us in so many ways— the ways we think, the ways we feel, or even our beliefs. Our bodies may evidence the loss. We may experience all sorts of aches and pains. Our stomachs may hurt, our muscles ache, and our heads may throb.

While these physical reactions are common in grief, they do have to be monitored by a physician. We need to be very mindful of our health as we experience a loss. It goes beyond simply the physical manifestations of our grief. A loss can have an insidious effect on our health and even our survival.

There are a number of reasons for that. First, grief is highly stressful and stress negatively affects our health. Stress not only creates a whole series of problems affecting, for example, our heart, blood pressure, or digestion but, it also suppresses our immune system, making us less likely to fight off other infections. Second, often when someone we love dies, our own health practices suffer. We may become negligent in adhering to a medication regimen. We may ignore basic needs—failing to eat well, exercise, or get sufficient sleep.

Good self-care then is a essential piece as we deal with our loss. We need to monitor our stress levels and do all that we can to reduce unnecessary stress. That is why it is helpful to not make any significant changes, such as a move or job change, after a loss. Any change brings additional stress at an already difficult time.

It is also helpful to assess our own health habits, reviewing how they may have been affected by the loss. Are we sleeping well? Has our diet changed? Are we exercising enough? Are we taking medication in the prescribed way? Are we avoiding practices that can negatively influence our health and well-being, such as the excessive use of alcohol? Once we examine our own health and life practices we can begin to make the essential changes. When necessary, we can discuss any concerns, such as an inability to sleep, with our physician.

We can be proactive as well. Are there things we can do to reduce stress? Each of us has our own ways to deal positively with stress. It may be listening to music, taking a walk in the woods or on a beach, or getting a massage. Often, reaching into our own spirituality, whether it is prayer, meditation, or any other spiritual discipline, can help reduce stress. Practicing ways to de-stress makes good sense in grief.

Grief is hard work. Like any hard work we have to acknowledge that we

need time off. Going out with friends, taking in a movie, or enjoying a concert offers temporary respite from our loss. It empowers us to deal with our grief.

And because grief is hard work, we need to face it as physically fit as possible. Taking care of ourselves is the first step as we cope with our loss.

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

Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., is a Professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle. Dr. Doka's books include: **Disenfranchised Grief; Living with Life Threatening Illness; Living with Grief;**

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

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

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

A man walks into a new young doctor's office with a bad case of the hiccups. He tells the newly licensed doctor that he has been suffering from them for several months now and that he can't take it anymore.



So the doctor mixes up a glass of his remedy and gives it to him. The man takes it then leaves to go out front to pay for the visit. The doctor's partner comes in and asks the young doctor if there has been any new cases this morning. The young doctor says yes, there was one man who came in with a severe case of the hiccups and I cured him. The old doctor says, "What?" You can't cure hiccups." The young doctor says, "Yes, you can. Come over and look out the window. Do you see that man down there on the street corner with a telephone pole all hugged up?" "Yes, what of it?" the old doctor asked. "Well, that man is afraid to hiccup," said the young doctor. "Now, why would that man be afraid to hiccup?" asked the old doctor. "A glass of extra strength colon blow....."

Sent by John H. Carter, Stewart Family Funeral Home, Tyler, TX

Late Halloween Joke

A bald man with a wooden leg is invited to a Halloween party. He doesn't know what costume to wear to hide his head and his leg so he writes to a costume company to explain his problem. A few days later, he received a parcel with the following note: Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a pirate's outfit. The spotted handkerchief will cover your bald head and, with your wooden leg, you will be just right as a pirate. Very truly yours, Acme Costume Co. The man thinks this is terrible because they have emphasized his wood leg and so he writes a letter of complaint. A week goes by and he receives another parcel and a note, which says: Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a monk's habit. The long robe will cover your wooden leg and, with your bald head, you will really look the part. Very truly yours, Acme Costume Co. Now, the man is really upset since they have gone from emphasizing his wooden leg to emphasizing his bald head, so again he writes the company another nasty letter of complaint. The next day he gets a small parcel and a note, which reads: Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a bottle of molasses and a bag of crushed nuts. Pour the molasses over your bald head, pat on crushed nuts, stick your wooden leg up your b... and go as a caramel apple. Very truly yours, Acme Costume Co.

Goodbye, Mom

I was shopping at Wally World and noticed a little old lady following me around. I stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at me. She finally overtook me at the checkout, and she turned to me and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease; it's just that you look so much like my late son." I answered, "That's okay." "I know it's silly, but if you'd call out 'Goodbye, Mom,' as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy." She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, I called out, "Goodbye, Mom." The little old lady waved, and smiled back at me. Pleased that I had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, I went to pay for my groceries. "That comes to \$121.85," said the clerk. "How come so much? I only bought 5 items.." The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things, too." Don't trust little Old Ladies!!!!



Comments

Joanne.....I just want to let you know how much I appreciate your column and how open you are about your daughters deaths.... Every time I read one of your articles, it helps me know that I am not alone in this mess. Thanks for sharing...

Michael Kirsch, Kirsch Funeral Chapel, Shenandoah, Iowa
"...I loved the material and thought it was the best industry publication I had read.

Ken Hampson, Mooney-Keehley

WHAT?????

I was checking out at the local Wally World with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of the 'dividers' that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all my items, she picked up the 'divider,' looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it. Not finding the bar code, she said to me, "Do you know how much this is? I said to her, "I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today." She said, "OK," and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened.





A lady at work was seen putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly.. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM 'thingy.'

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper... What do I do?" "Just use copier machine paper," the secretary told her. With that the intern took her last remain blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five 'blank' copies.

I was in a car dealership a while ago, when a large motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in 'Twister.' I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the 'cruise control' and then went in the back to make a sandwich.

Grandma's boyfriend

A five-year-old went to visit his grandmother one day. Playing with his toys in her bedroom while grandma was dusting, he looked up and said, "Grandma, how come you don't have a boyfriend now that Grandpa went to heaven?" Grandma replied, "Honey, my TV is my boyfriend. I can sit in my bedroom and watch it all day long. The religious programs make me feel good and the comedies make me laugh. I'm happy with my TV as my boyfriend." Grandma turned on the TV, and the reception was terrible. She started adjusting the knobs, trying to get the picture in focus. Frustrated, she started hitting the backside of the TV hoping to fix the problem. The little boy heard the doorbell ring, so he hurried to open the door and there stood Grandma's minister. The minister said, "Hello son, is your grandma home?" The little boy replied, "Yeah, she's in the bedroom bargin' her boyfriend." The minister fainted.



(Continued on page 11)

Chuckles (Cont.)

(Continued from page 10)



Buying a Computer with Abbott and Costello

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, "Who's on First?" might have turned out something like this:

COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer:

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No, on the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! Ok, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue "W."

(Continued on page 13)

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A Round of Applause for Mooney-Keehley!!!



Ken Hampson, President of Mooney-Keehley, quality engravers, printers and publishers of Rochester, New York, took a bold step on October 23rd when he faxed an announcement to funeral directors nationwide. Ken took a stand against the upwardly spiraling prices and fuel surcharges that we are becoming all too accustomed to. "We have

carefully evaluated market conditions and economists' predictions for our raw material costs and **believe it would be imprudent to raise your prices at this time**," Ken stated in his fax. He went on to say, "Rather than focus on short term pricing gains, we will continue to work on the strategies you have come to expect from Mooney-Keehley in the areas of innovation and quality products at affordable prices." You can view Mooney-Keehley products on their website at www.mooneykeehley.com.

In view of the cascading economic events of the last few weeks we should all look long and hard at our pricing from the consumer's point of view as well as our own. There is always a chance that our prices/costs may reflect what we think the consumer wants as opposed to what they really prefer.

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Chuckles (Cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue "w" if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial book-keeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on "START:....."

And Then The Fight Started

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping the channels. She asked, "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust." And then the fight started....

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds." I bought her a scale. And then the fight started...

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since." "My Gosh!!" says my wife, "who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" And then the fight started...

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, playing golf. Always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway! The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

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One of These Days

By Mary Lizzi Carlstedt, Sandusky, OH

One of these days you will realize you got through the day without crying.

One of these days you will bite into a piece of fruit and actually taste the sweetness.

One of these days you will find yourself smiling.

One of these days you will recognize again that stranger in the mirror.

One of these days you will notice that the season has changed.

One of these days you will feel the sun on your face.

One of these days you will laugh out loud.

One of these days you will wake and not dread the day ahead.

One of these days you will speak their name and smile.

One of these days you will come to terms that for all your questions there are no answers.

One of these days, when you are ready, you will know you'll be okay, not whole ever again, but okay, one of these days....



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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATES

Harold D. Gyber, 84, died September 24, 2008. He was a salesman for several casket companies until his retirement in 1979.

Wilma Stone, 64, died October 12, 2008. Wilma was a former office and customer service manager for Lynch Funeral Supply and Heartland Casket Co., Inc., until suffering a stroke in 2001.

IOWA

Erick Jon McKee, 64, died October 19, 2008. Jon grew up in the McKee Funeral Home in Carson, owned by his adoptive parents. He worked as a funeral director in Omaha, Greenfield and Winterset and owned funeral homes in Dexter and Earlham. Services were directed by Kuhn Funeral Home, Earlham.



Donald D. Woodley, 53 of Wyoming, died October 14, 2008. He joined the Hayden Funeral Homes in 1986 and became a full partner in 1992. He retired from funeral service in 2003. Services were directed by the Lahey Funeral Home of Wyoming.

MISSOURI

Helen Duncan, 87, died in November, 2008. She was the widow of Joe Duncan, who was a past MFDEA president. Services were conducted by the Duncan Funeral Chapel in Mountain View.

Ethel M. Eaton, 97, died October 18, 2008. She was the widow of Harrison M. Eaton and mother of Harrison W. Eaton, former state inspector and James D. Eaton, Eaton Funeral Home in Sullivan. Services were directed by Eaton Funeral Home.

Mary Lou Gentry, 81, of Cabool passed away October 30, 2008. Mary Lou and her husband Jim operated the Elliott-Gentry Funeral Home in Cabool for over 50 years. She was well known for her professionalism and attention to detail. Services were directed by the Elliott-Gentry-Carter Funeral Home in Cabool.



E. Weldon Keckley, 87, died December 1, 2008. Mr. Keckley was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the father of Tom Keckley of Parker Mortuary in Joplin. Services were directed by Parker Mortuary.



Darrell Roberts, 67, died October 29, 2008. He was a retired funeral director with Clinkingbeard Funeral Home of Ava. Services were directed by Clinkingbeard Funeral Home.

NEW YORK



Charles R. "Chuck" Striker, 47, West Oneonta died September 27, 2008. Chuck was a funeral director for Lester E. Grummons Funeral Home in Oneonta. He previously had worked for several funeral homes in New York and Arizona. A Marine Corps veteran he specialized in helping families with VA benefits.

OKLAHOMA

Estol Stephen "Steve" Shurden, 64, Henryetta, died August 23, 2008. He owned the Shurden Funeral Home and had served on the Oklahoma Funeral Board and two terms as president of OFDA

TEXAS

Cordelia Adams, died August 25, 2008. Mrs. Adams was the mother of Allan Adams, owner/operator of Adams Funeral Home in Ralls, Crosbyton & Lorenzo, Larry Adams, owner/operator of Adams Funeral Home in Hamlin and grandmother of Tracy Graham, co-owner/operator of Lawrence Adams Funeral Home, Anson. Services were directed by Adams Funeral Home of Ralls.

Jo Gene Blackwell, died October 5, 2008. She was the wife of John R. Blackwell, co-owner of Blackwell Funeral Home in Friona. Services were directed by Blackwell Funeral Home.

Jarvis Carter, father of a TFDA lobbyist and friend, died November 2, 2008. Services were directed by Hamil Family Funeral Home in Abilene.

Esperanza Castillo died October 19, 2008. Her daughter Martha is married to Fred Valasquez representing Pierce Chemicals Royal Bond. Services were directed by Resthaven Funeral home in Lubbock.

Melvin Tom McCoy, McCoy Funeral Home, Sweetwater, died November 22, 2008. Services were conducted November 28 by McCoy Funeral Home.

Toni Mendez, died October 18, 2008. Her daughter Becky Sierra is a funeral director at the Thomason Funeral Home in San Marcos. Services were directed by Thomason Funeral Home.

Thomas A. Patton, died September 28, 2008. Thomas was an embalmer with All Faiths Mortuary Service in Houston. Services were at Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home, Bloomington, Illinois.

Elizabeth Oats Franklin Purdy, died October 16, 2008. She was a founding partner of the Franklin-Bartley Funeral Home until her retirement in 1980. A visitation was held at the Putman Funeral Home in Kingsland and a visitation and services were conducted at the Franklin-Bartley Chapel in Lubbock.

Norma Willene Robison, died October 21, 2008. She was the mother of Billy Robison, General Manager of SCI, Tyler. Services were directed by the East Funeral Home in Texarkana.

Lt. Col. (Ret) F/E. "Frank Umpress, Jr. died October 22, 2008. He was the father of Kate Allen and father-in-law of E. Gene Allen owners of Kerrville Funeral Home. Services directed by the Kerrville Funeral Home, Kerrville.

Sue T. Victory, 74, died August, 2008. Mrs. Victory was owner of Rix Funeral Directors in Hereford and Lubbock, Franklin-Bartley Funeral Home, Lubbock and South Plains Monument Company. She was the mother of Michele Victory, manager of Rix Funeral Home, Kate Johnston and Rix Victory. She was active in many activities of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and civic organizations in Lubbock. She was the widow of Whit Rix Victory. Services by Rix Funeral Directors, Lubbock.



Denotes Veteran of Military Service

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



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Grief: The Productivity Thief

By Lowell Pugh and Joanne Howard

Grief, one of the most consistent productivity thieves, is seldom acknowledged nor addressed by contemporary training doctrines. Recognizing grief in the workplace and providing minimal steps for resolution can reap benefits in employees' morale and effectiveness.

Studies⁽¹⁾ in the early eighties indicated that 16 percent of the work force could be coping with major personal losses each year. These might include:

- ♦ The death or illness of a family member, coworker or friend.
- ♦ Plant closing, relocation or changed job environment.
- ♦ Finances, lost retirement income, credit card debt, medical expenses, etc.
- ♦ Divorce and other shattered relationships.
- ♦ The empty nest syndrome or the unplanned return of grown children.



Virtually anything that causes stress in a person's life. The efficiency of individual workers and ultimately the team is severely affected when grief is not resolved.

Our attention is usually focused on workplace violence and the pre-emptive planning (enhanced security, employee screening, counseling, etc.) to avoid a headline-

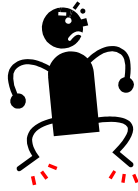
grabbing incident. Planning to assist after workplace violence and losses, seldom includes preparation for more than a few days beyond the incident. Grief resulting from all types of losses may affect employees for weeks, months, years or even a lifetime. The time frame of assistance often needs to

be longer and more flexible.

In the real world of the workplace there is a great variance in human resource and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) policy for workers. These policies and programs are often not prepared to deal with long term grief reactions. These reactions have been described as "complicated mourning" according to Therese Rando.⁽²⁾ This type of mourning surpasses just personal suffering and also involves economics, social life, politics, and philosophy of the person's relationships to many aspects of one's life **including the workplace.**

Key employees may well benefit from a more liberal policy while the run-of-the-mill workers are given one or two days to get over whatever grief problems that are troubling them. In other words, "get over it or get out."

The physical and emotional evidence of grief includes: impaired decision-making, motivational problems, confu-



sion, illness, alcohol and drug use, decreased awareness of safety procedures, lower productivity and product quality and absenteeism.

With advanced preparation, management may lessen these dilemmas. Guidelines for managing the consequences of grief in coworkers due to personal workplace losses include:

- ♦ Designating a facilitator/coordinator to review policy and develop a plan.
- ♦ Acknowledge the death or incident.
- ♦ Disseminate information about the problem in a compassionate manner.
- ♦ Allow coworkers flexibility as needed.
- ♦ Be prepared to have a workplace memorial service.
- ♦ Provide a support group. Check for other counselor resources, printed materials, tapes, DVDs and ideas that may be obtained locally.
- ♦ Be available to listen to coworkers and be patient.



Listening patiently to a grieving coworker may be the single best act of kindness and one of the most effective responses in the restoration of the workplace routine. Coworker grief does not punch a time clock.

(1) Bolyard (1983) Sprague (1984)

(2) Rando, PhD., Therese A. Treatment of Complicated Mourning, Research Press, (1993)

Editor's Note: Readers are encouraged to provide copies of this article to local employers. For a more comprehensive look at grief in the workplace, order **Grief Resolution for Co-Workers.**, for \$14.95, tax and shipping and handling included from H. L. Pugh & Associates, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748-0145.

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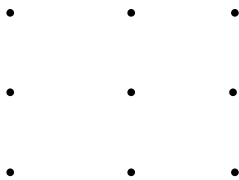
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Think Outside The Box (Sent by Craig)

See if you can connect all the dots using only 4 straight lines. Hint: think outside the Box



From: Paradigms—
by Joel Arthur Baker—
"Future Edge"

Solution on Page 19

Is Your Businesses Future Secure?

You've built a successful business, but do you have an Exit Strategy?

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"Rolling Work of Art-The Art Carved Funeral Coach" (Prinzing Motor Company) (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

flects upon the golden era of funeral coaches and automotive designs to create a truly awe-inspiring appearance. "I had no idea how much this car would touch my families and my community," said Richard Neal, "It is truly a moving experience like no other, when you see the pride and pleasure that this car evokes in a

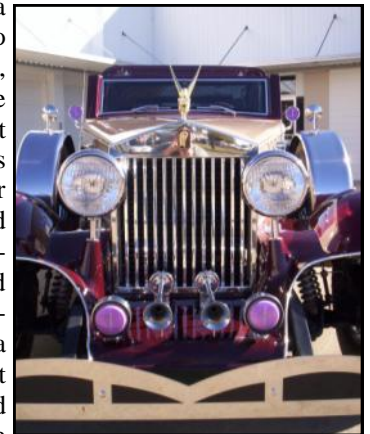


Dashboard

grieving family... it is a real defining moment in my relationship with those families and I know they will remember the rest of their lives."


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modular chassis and suspension components are combined with the latest GM Flex Fuel EFI engines and overdrive transmissions, thereby allowing the owner to seek service and maintenance from any GM or GM capable repair center. The body is made of a Kevlar composite material that will quite literally last a lifetime and is impervious to rust. Upon closer inspection, one will note that the chrome work is not really chrome, but yet highly polished stainless steel that will not craze, peel or age as chrome or plastic plated parts do over time. The interiors of Prinzing's are comprised of plush leather and real mahogany woodwork encapsulated in a deep, crystal clear finish that reflects the true quality and craftsmanship of not only the maker, but of its owners as well.



Front of Coach

(Continued on page 28)



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As We Drive By

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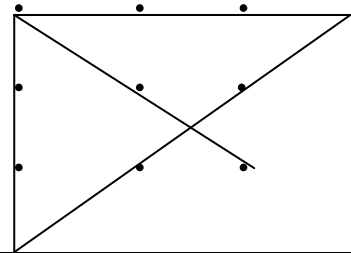
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2008 Sales Award Winners for Doric Products, Inc. (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

(West Reading, PA); Division III—**Lavaca Vault Inc. (Lavaca, AR)**; Division IV—Everlasting Vault Co. (Randallstown, MD).

In the Athenian Category, winners were: “Greatest Number Sold—Athenian”: Division I—**Suhor-Ellison Vault (Cedar Hill, TX)**; Division II—**Welte Vault Company (Danbury, IA)**; Division III—Beck Vault (Rome, NY); Division IV—Century Vault Company (Oxford, MA). “Greatest Percentage of Increase—Athenian” Division I—**Doric Manufacturing Co. (Boaz, IA)**; Division II—Southern Ohio Vault Co. (New Boston, OH); Division III—Forsyth Bros. Concrete Products (Terre Haute, IN) & Northwest PA Burial Service (Cochran, PA); Division IV—Century Vault Company (Oxford, MA).

Winners in the Lydian Category: “Greatest Number Sold—Lydian”: Division I—Master Grave Service (Bogart, GA); Division II—**Welte Vault Company (Danbury, IA)**; Division III—American Vault Co. (Cleveland, OH) & **West Plains Vault Co. (Pomona, MO)**; Division IV—Century Vault Company (Oxford, MA). “Greatest Percentage of Increase—Lydian” division I—Doric Manufacturing Co. (Boaz, AL); Division II—Esterly Burial Vault Service (West Reading, PA); Division III—D.G. Robertson Inc. (Burlington, VT) & Forsyth Bros. Concrete Products (Terre Haute, IN) & Mercer Vault Co. (Fredericksburg, VA) & Wicomico Vault Co. (Salisbury, MD); Division IV—Odon Vault Co. (Odon, IN).

Bronze Category winners: “Greatest Number Sold—Bronze” Division I—Superior Vault LTD (Ontario, Canada); Division II—**Welte Vault Company (Danbury, IA)**; Division III—Wicomico Vault Co., Inc. (Salisbury, MD); Division IV—Suhor Industries—NY Location (Fairport, NY) & Tretter-Boeglin, Inc. (Huntingburg, IN). “Greatest Percentage of Increase—Bronze” Division I—Hairfield Vault Co. (Morganton, NC); Division II—Eagle Burial Vault of LA (Ruston, LA); Division III—D.G. Robertson Inc. (Burlington, VT) & Norwest PA Burial Service (Cochran, PA); District IV—None.

Doric is proud to be involved with all our 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.

Whose Responsibility is Opening and Closing the Grave?

It seems like there was a bit of a misunderstanding in Marlin, Texas when police were called about a body left unattended after a graveside service.

A family friend returned to the gravesite about an hour after the service and found that a grave hadn't been dug nor was anyone from the funeral home present.

After the family had been notified of the situation, the police became involved. By the time they showed up the body had been put back into the hearse, and later the funeral home returned with a backhoe and apologized to the family.

A bit of confusion seemed to be the problem with the funeral home thinking the city dug graves and the city not feeling responsible for opening and closing graves.

Isn't this usually resolved before the service????????

Information from 10 KWTX Television Station—Stephanie Franks, Reporter

Lawsuits for Mishandling Bodies

Problems are continuing for a funeral home in Columbia, Missouri that is accused of mishandling bodies. It began with the discovery of a body not embalmed or refrigerated for 10 months and numerous other bodies and body parts. This has led to many other worries about what happened to past bodies. The funeral home has been closed with financial restitution and civil penalties being pursued by the state. Not only are there cases about mishandling of bodies, people are also concerned about their pre-purchased funeral packages.

The company was beset by financial problems and wanted to sell, but now it is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy along with other legal difficulties.

Not only is it a bad situation for a funeral home, but it also has the added challenge of having racial overtones.

Hopefully a resolution will be reached soon to have the families comforted and less bad publicity for the funeral home profession.

Information drawn from Associated Press—Alan Scher Zagier, Reporter

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"Dear Counselor...." By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor,

Can you explain what it means when a preneed trust marks to market, and why the trustee would do so?

In the context of a preneed trust, the phrase "mark-to-market" means that the value of the individual preneed contracts (for purposes of distribution) will be based on the aggregate value of the trust's assets. During the 'salad days,' the mark to market approach would allow the funeral operator to benefit from a long-term investment philosophy without having to realize capital gains. The mark-to-market approach provides the fund manager flexibility to diversify the trust assets. Preneed trusts have failed to track the performance of other types of trusts because many are invested exclusively in fixed income investments or tax-exempt bonds.

The current financial crisis is forcing preneed trustees to abandon the more conventional book income approach. It was very common for preneed trusts to account for individual preneed contracts on the amount deposited to trust and the amount realized income allocated to those deposits. This approach ignores the unrealized gains and losses of the

trust assets.

With the stock markets having tumbled more than 30% and economists warning this 'recession' could last years, preneed trustees face the prospect of having trust liabilities in excess of trust assets for an extended period of time. Consequently, some preneed trusts are switching their computation for distributions from a 'fixed' approach to the mark-to-market approach. For trusts that have employed the book income approach for years, funeral directors may question how a 10-year contract and a 1-month contract can pay the same benefit. While the switch should be made in an equitable manner, the new contracts cannot be expected to bare the brunt of the trust's value decline.



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.

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

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- ◆ Wedding plans take care of themselves.
- ◆ Chocolate is just another snack.
- ◆ You can be President.
- ◆ You can never be pregnant.
- ◆ You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park.
- ◆ Car mechanics tell you the truth.
- ◆ The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.
- ◆ You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
- ◆ Same work, more pay.
- ◆ Wrinkles add character.
- ◆ Wedding dress \$5,000-Tux Rental-\$100.
- ◆ People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.
- ◆ New shoes don't cut, blister or mangle your feet.
- ◆ One mood all the time.
- ◆ Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
- ◆ You know stuff about tanks.
- ◆ A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.
- ◆ You can open all your own jars.
- ◆ You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- ◆ If someone forget to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.
- ◆ Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack.
- ◆ Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- ◆ You almost never have strap problems in public.
- ◆ You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.
- ◆ Everything on you face stays its original color.
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Grave Robbing

In an article from the St. Louis Post Dispatch, 6/30/2008 by Nicholas J. C. Pistor, a discussion on the "Local and national outbreak of grave robbing" was given.

It referenced how grave robbing in the past dealt with people digging up the bodies looking for gold, or body parts for medical experiments or even he mentioned, trying to steal Abraham Lincoln for ransom.

But that isn't the type of robbing we have to deal with in the present— it's more "an above-ground affair." What they steal now is the bronze markers and vases to sell as scrap metal.

Robberies have been recently reported in many states including Illinois, Florida, Arizona, Maryland, Michigan and North Carolina. Obviously it's happening in Missouri too, since they have passed a law "aimed at helping police track thieves who steal brass and bronze and sell it to scrap metal dealers."

One police chief began paying for an Internet-based system, www.leadsonline.com that tracks the sale of scrap metal online and in pawnshops.

The article ended with the conclusion: "Apparently, there is a way relatives can keep their deceased loved ones from becoming targets of thieves- 'Most of the stolen vases we've had come from vases that didn't have any flowers.'"



Hampton Funeral Home and Cremation Launches Website for Prescott, Arizona and Surrounding Communities

Hampton Funeral Home and Cremation provides a site that is very user friendly. The Prescott and surrounding Arizona areas will be able to interact with www.hamptonfuneralhome.com. Families can learn what services are available while also interacting with online memorials.

On July 14, 2008 Hampton Funeral Home and Cremation launched their new website that is different from all other kinds in the area. Online memorials and the online guestbook will help families remember loved ones.

"We're moving from a single page to a full website," said Clent Walker, General Manager of the funeral home. "The goal is to educate the public of their choices and the services we offer."

The funeral home website was designed by Aldor Solutions. The final website will be easy for families to navigate and find the information they are looking for.





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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 provided by Bill Murray.



Lawlor Funeral Home
Columbia, IL



Garnett-New-McDonald
Funeral Home
Warsaw, Kentucky



Things Happen for A Reason

This is a good reminder for me and anyone, that all things happen to us for a reason. We may never find out like this story, but God knows why. Trust in Him.

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest—a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.....

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a lad-

der, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area..

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was a sheet.. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria when the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great.



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2000 Cadillac Superior Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Blk Int	42,000 mi
1998 Cadillac M & M Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/Blue Int	48,000 mi
1997 Cadillac Federal Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	74,000 mi
1996 Cadillac Federal Coach	Blk/Blk Ext/Blk Int	46,000 mi
1992 Cadillac S & S Vict Coach	Silv/Silv Ext/Blue Int	77,700 mi
1992 Cadillac Federal Coach	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	24,000 mi

Limousines

2003 Cadillac Eureka 6-Dr	Silver Ext/GrayInt	29,500 mi
2002 Cadillac S & S- 6-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/Blk Int	72,000 mi
2002 Cadillac Eureka 90" 5-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/Blk Int	59,000 mi
1999 Cadillac Eureka 6-Dr	Wht/Wht Ext/Blue Int	39,000 mi
1997 Cadillac M & M 6-Dr	Blk/Blk Ext/Black Int	68,000 mi

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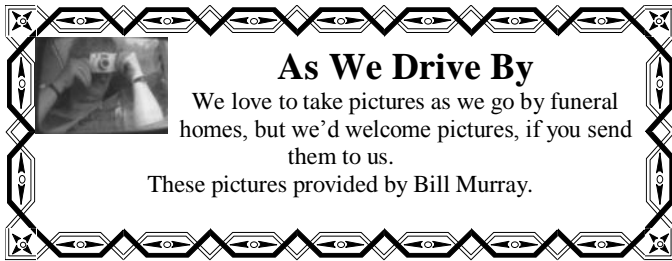
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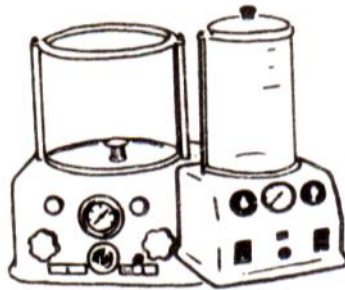
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2008 NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award Recipients

Brookfield, WI—The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) announced the Pursuit of Excellence Program's 2008 award recipients. Consisting of 168 funeral homes nationwide and abroad, this elite group of professionals is recognized for going beyond expectations for the families and communities they serve, while adhering to the highest ethical standards. Award recipients were honored on Tuesday, October 14, at NFDA's 2008 International Convention & Expo in Orlando, Florida.

Recipients in our distribution area:

"Best of Best"

Humphrey Funeral Service Inc., Russellville, AR

2008 Pursuit of Excellence Award Recipients

Adair Funeral Home, Tucson, AZ
 Billingsley Funeral Homes, Inc.
 Beasley-Wood/Geyer-Quillan, Mena, AR
 Bring Funeral Home, Inc., Tucson, AZ
 Callaway-Jones Funeral Home, Bryan, TX
 Cobb Funeral Home, Blytheville, AR
 Cozean Memorial Chapel, Farmington, MO
 Cozine Memorial Group, Wichita, KS
 Crist Mortuary/Mtn. View Cemetery, Boulder, CO
 Dengel & Son Mortuary, Ottawa, KS
 Evergreen Mortuary, Cemetery & Crematory, Tucson, AZ
 Garnand Funeral Chapel, Inc., Ulysses, KS
 Garnand Funeral Home, Inc., Garden City, KS
 Humphrey Funeral Service, Inc., Russellville, AR
 Kerrville Funeral Home, Kerrville, TX
 Larrison Mortuary, Pratt, KS
 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 Crown Hill Mortuary & Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, CO
 Olinger Hampden Mortuary & Cemetery, Denver, CO
 Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO
 Olinger Moore Howard Chapel, Denver, CO
 Roland Funeral Service, Atlantic, IA
 Roller-Funeral Home, Mountain Home, AR
 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-McNutt Funeral Home, Conway, AR
 Roller-Owens Funeral Home, North Little Rock, AR
 Schrader Funeral Home, Cheyenne, WY
 Strode Funeral Home, Stillwater, OK

"Rolling Work of Art-The Art Carved Funeral Coach" (Prinzing Motor Company) (Cont.)

(Continued from page 18)

"The funeral industry is an ever evolving industry that will always balance the fine line between service and profitability. In today's world of the internet, the informed consumer, third-party sellers, cremation, and the emerging

Inside Coach



"green" funeral movement, it only makes sense that we—like our consumers—seek out the most for our money, and begin making business decisions that look

Hood Ornament



beyond a five year purchase cycle, and to seek out long term solutions. I feel that it is time that the funeral industry has a true 'purpose-built' professional car." - Richard Neal.

The Prinzing Motor Company also offers a standard Landau Funeral Coach, and will soon unveil a 6-door Limousine. For more information regarding vehicles or investment opportunities, call Rosewood Classic Coach—Toll free—1-877-330-ROSE (7673) or visit Prinzing's website at: www.prinzingmc.com.

Incarcerated Coroner Re-Elected

Funeral director Dwight Olmstead, 57, of Heber Springs, Arkansas, was elected Cleburne County Coroner in the November general election while confined to jail. Olmstead was unopposed in his re-election bid for Cleburne County Coroner's office. He had been out on bail since a shooting incident February 17, 2007 involving his father. His bail was revoked after witnesses reported that he vandalized his father's van by throwing shellac or varnish on the interior resulting in \$2000 in damages to the van.

Dwight had been accused of shooting his father, Tom Olmstead at the family's 112-year-old funeral home in 2007. Tom was wounded in the leg and Dwight in the abdomen. Police charged Dwight with attempted murder and second degree battery before he was released on bail.

According to a news report, Tom and Dwight had sued each other over control of the family funeral home and Dwight had opened a competing firm. Both had been elected coroner in the past. Dwight's trial is scheduled in February. Deputy coroners are handling cases while coroner Olmstead is unavailable.

Information from an article by Julie Steward, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Nov. 18, 2008

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An Old Sailor Rejoins His Shipmates

Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Eugene Morgan survived the Japanese torpedoes that sunk the USS Indianapolis and a shark attack in the Pacific Ocean near the Marianas, July, 1945. The ship had delivered A-Bomb components to the island of Tinian a few days earlier and was heading back to Leyte in the Philippines. After five days he was rescued from the shark infested waters where 879 of his shipmates perished.

Fast forward to 2008. Eugene's grandson Jason Witty is a Machinist Mate 1st Class on the USS Ohio, a submarine. Jason had not know of his grandfather's ordeal until after his grandmother's death. Two years later the old man opened up and shared the story of the Indianapolis' sinking and what the survivors had gone through.

Morgan, 87, died in June. His grandson carried his grandfather's ashes back to sea with him. Jason put in a request to scatter the ashes when the Ohio was back in the vicinity of the Indianapolis tragedy. It was granted. So when Jason emerged through the hatch on October 2, he saw calm blue water under a peaceful sky. A perfect setting for the ritual he was about to perform. Scripture was read along with a eulogy written by another grandson Steven Wilson. Then orders were given to the firing detail. Three volleys rang out. Jason turned to face the sea and held a silver pitcher wrapped in blue cloth over the side of the deck. The wind carried the ashes of Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Eugene Morgan to rest with his shipmates.

Information from Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 11/1/08, in article by Eric Talmadge

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 provided by Bill Murray.



The Paul Mortuary
Pacific Grove, CA
Established- 1905



Halsted N. Gray-Carens & English, Inc.
San Francisco, CA—Established. 1850





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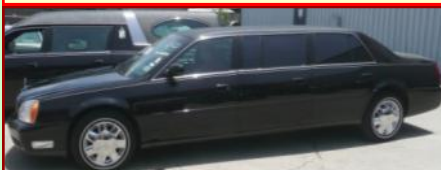
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