

¶ Cremation of the dead:

Greeks after 5th cent BC + Romans practiced  
Christians brought earth-burial to its vogue  
→ If 4000 corpses are crowded into an  
acre, and a mortality rate of 15 per 1000  
be assumed, then nearly 4 acres per  
1,000,000 pop. are required annually  
for the dead --- Should surely cremate  
where death due to transmissible diseases

One objection --- may conceal foul  
play -- US

First <sup>US</sup> crematory est. in 1876 by  
Dr. F. Julius Le Moigne at Washington, Pa.  
Baron de Palm funeral client -- about 170  
bodies.

Disinterment = Post mortem,  
Trinofus,

Farrity, Squabbles - (1) Stripes, etc

Life after Death - Hic!

Falling arm, burp, 5 his. tumbler,  
chase from nostrils "All our sins"

Tatooing

Mumphy's dead! = Erection

Acadabra = Eye glasses, letters,  
dovon deere, baby shoes.....

Choris = Volunter, Professional

Preachers.

Gravside Asides

Card of Thanks !!

Try & get It = Unpaid bill

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The Best Job in the House

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Septons & gravediggers

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The Gravy and Haunters

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Don't Be Too Natural!

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Please Omit Flowers!

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No for the Wake!  
Sweet Conf...

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Accidents

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The Perfect Formula =

A Unrehearsed Act = A dress  
rehearsal without practice.

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Jan. 31, 1947 - Friday =

Idea for Book.

The Wailing Wall

American Wailing Wall

The American Funeral

"To Sleep, Perchance...."

THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN FUNERAL

## Preface.

This is the story of the American funeral.  
It is ~~a story~~ not a story of death, because the

story of the American dying is, I think,  
peculiarly the story of living America; <sup>a pulsing,</sup> <sup>despite all,</sup> with its strict

conventions, its traditions, its <sup>its excesses</sup> sentiment, <sup>and, despite</sup> its  
admission of race, <sup>its</sup> <sup>terrible</sup> <sup>from the New</sup>

England Puritan tradition.

Menckler seems to think that the American  
funeral is changing. <sup>He is wrong.</sup> <sup>It simply has a</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>It's not worth to cover grave markers with him, but I</sup>  
better press and better copy-writers. <sup>The funeral is the same.</sup> <sup>essential</sup> <sup>to American civilization now</sup>  
You may call our

undertaker a mortician; pall-bearers may have become  
escorts; grey gloves may be ~~white~~ <sup>black</sup>, but the

American funeral goes on, much as it did when my  
grandfather began burying the dead in this little Massin

town of 60 years ago; <sup>as</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>father</sup> <sup>did</sup> <sup>until</sup>  
his death two years ago; <sup>1934, almost for the</sup> as I have since I got out of  
the Navy shortly before Christmas in 1945. As Charles  
Telford <sup>confided first</sup> said last week, "Erling, how were people  
dying <sup>these days</sup> ~~today~~ but never died before." Aint' it the truth?"

Chapter headings

The Bull Bearing Pall Bear

Death & Resurrection

The Bewaved Family

The Patters Field

The Basket

Suicides: Hanged in a 40. ft. maple:

Murder

Odd deaths =

Lodge deaths

The Signs of Relief

The Wake

Mistaken Identity

Storms

Misery

The Burial = Mattie Kingman

Prostitutes = Billie Sowa with a 'ho on each arm.

Most Plow = Italian Funeral.

Earl Gray - Gray

FIX LITER

LITER FLUID

SOAP & Fish

Fitch SHAMPOO

Havicut

Do  
If you ever wake up in the  
morning with spots before  
your eyes, a pain in the  
small of your back, and  
a strong & highly offensive  
urine? - Take Benzoin!  
Then take Benzoin!

ROBERT Q. ARCHIBALD  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
MARQUETTE COUNTY  
NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN

Gray-39d

I understand the  
 National Selected  
 Morticians, Inc. has  
 formulated rules for  
 atomic funerals, one  
 of which provides:

New Yorker  
 "Talk of the Town"  
 8/16/48  
 for man

"Remains that are not  
 too highly radioactive  
 may be viewed by  
 visitors the public  
 if visitors file  
 quickly  
 past the  
 casket  
 instead of  
 standing  
 before it for  
 any appreciable  
 time." I do not

know of the complete  
 report explain how  
 the embalmer gets  
 near enough to the  
 corpse to do his stuff...

	0hE
	5
	89
	99x
	23
	43+
	35+
	42+
	47+
	51
	29



Titles

THE STORY OF A SMALL-TOWN  
UNDER-TAKER

- 1: THE QUICK AND THE DEAD
- 2: DEAD MEN TELL THEIR TALKS.
- 3: EXPERIENCES OF AN EMBALMER  
ALAS, POOR YORICK!

### Chapter Headings.

- ✓ 1: Historical Background.
  - ✓ 2: Biographical data.
  - 3: Catastrophe - minus
  - 4: Epidemic
  - 5: Outsize corpses <sup>Buckroth's</sup>
  - 6: { <sup>THE CASNET WILL REMAIN CLOSED</sup> Please don't flowers.
  - 7: Family Quirks.
  - 8: A-Fending' & A-fighting?
  - 9: Suicide or murder? <sup>KNUSSEN</sup>
  - 10: The <sup>Passing</sup> Wake, (Steve O'Donnell)
  - 11: Changing customs:  
(w) gray gloves, etc. -- Made in Japan, ... Primarily huguenot - Jarred
- Professional
- X 12: The Widow ~~or~~ Widow
  - ✓ 13: The <sup>n</sup> Miser.
  - 14: We Bury More than the Body

14½. Unscrupulous practice  
Multiply casket by six

→ Disaster. Firm  
undertaken books home to  
lay in 27 caskets for  
Barns. Hecker & they  
abandoned trying to remove

---

The "cheap" funeral;  
remove \$250 blanket of  
Mrs "So you beloved -"

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### Chapters (contd.)

- 15: In Convention met.
- 16: Crocodile Tears
- 17: Tight Squeezes
- ✓ 18: Legends of the Profession:  
(a) Old Hanson that woke up.
- 19: The Wrong Corpse
- 15: Graveyard Lovers,
- 16: Order Before It's Too Late.
- 17: Suicides.
- 18: Disinterments.
- 19: The Disappearing Lodge.
- 20: Graveyard Demonstration.
- 21. Dress Rehearsal.
- 22: Pall Bearers.
- 23: Preachers
- 24: Roughbox shipments: *Part 2*  
Colored man for old lady.

25: ~~#~~ The Best That Money Can Buy

26: Bargainhunters

→ Can bargain but can  
scarcely walk out.

27: Equipment, tricks of the  
trade, etc.

✓ 28. The Recluses in their big  
house.

✓ 29: The old school teacher  
forgotten -- Gable and  
William Farnum...

30: All is Vanity.

(Show the left side of my  
profile) Left handed card

31: Life after Death.

32 THE PROFILE

33 Paid in Advance.

34 Fellow undertaker. (Bill from  
brown with)

X 35. THE IRISH SWEEPSTAKES

### Incidents

• A successful funeral is  
like a play that must ~~be~~  
make its way on Broadway  
without a single rehearsal...

¶ Even a wedding ceremony  
can be rehearsed. But not a  
funeral.

Besides the Latin derivation of their  
names, a mortician and physician  
have several <sup>other</sup> things in common.  
One of ~~which~~ is that they  
must remain on call any hour  
of the day and night.

Everyone must die; even  
morticians and hermits and  
monks and recluses and...

1: I knew him good  
- 4 yrs. in Navy  
"Oh, you look."

### Incident

Keeping up with the Jones  
finds its way even in funerals.

### Incident

Show social climber who  
finally succeeded in being  
buried next to the woman who  
spurned her during her lifetime

Do people wake up after death?  
Not after modern embalming...

31.

Being a mere mortician  
and not a metaphysician, I'll  
pass on that one...

Writing 19, 1948 1st story  
7/2/48 -- most people --  
Some people <sup>reveal</sup> tell more  
about themselves in death  
than they ever do during  
their lifetime... (Old school  
Teacher & mounds of movie  
Magz & pictures of Valentino &  
William Farnum & Maurice  
Costello.)

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Mysterious guy that does  
mysterious things - - -

Jumbo Peterson turns  
from mother's graveside  
& asks Vining - - "How  
much do I owe ya?"  
producing huge roll of  
spinaich.

---

Variant of Whiskey  
on coffin

---

Mrs. Mc Garty hastening  
towards Dad...

Alcoholics Delayed funeral

Chemical reaction is such that  
it tends to neutralize to  
formaldehyde. Use phenol  
base, --- Sometimes work  
guided by cause of death

Double suicide = one says

T: The Heris who left before  
A the funeral

B = Angry U drops bath in  
one rough box & sends bill for  
\$ 8.00 =

Need

1. Specification of body left  
The
2. Crocodile Tear.

### Life After Death

- 1: Lodge marched remains of old man Smith to church. Remains out of church --- Pall bearer hears knock & muffled voice
- 2: Look at the nice job he did. Won't close casket --- Pagan show & vulgar display --- Incorruptibility of spirit

### Graveside Antics

Kissing body at graveside 20° zero.

### Suicide

Old Vic hanging in mini pit with gloves & cap & glasses... Little Rich 30 ft up in tree --  
I tried & out: Olson with 3 attempts - single double & triple  
Wire = wrapped rag around wire so it  
wouldn't

Leo Siltanen: (1) He was just showing off.  
(2) All them Finns want to get into  
the act.



Chapters.

- 1: The Survivors -- Tipt of Kin
- 2: Dependents over Ills Health.
- 3: The Irish Sweepstakes.

Phlegon

1. Phlegon = Brought down coat but no pants. <sup>if they</sup> "Don't show."
2. Born, imprisoned, married, raise family & die.
3. Brought down to die near lot & undertaker  
(Lot of battles & expense)
4. Vinton hasn't got much. Watch the expenses... Did you  
have to bring that fancy wagon.
5. Vain of these days

at American funerals

The quality of gaiety at ~~American funerals~~  
is not strained...

Story of Elk (Moose, Reindeer, Caribou  
or Musk Ox) who gets pale - becomes  
stunned & has barbershop singing "Jolly" etc  
at Grave.

A miser is a person to whom money ceases to ~~become~~ <sup>be</sup> a means to an end but becomes the end itself.

### Miser.

1. Old man Ohmann fished for suckers, spooked them & ate them
2. Came here in 1880, had 1 son left her in 1905, went to Cal. on bus & murdered a man on a holdup. Sentenced to be hanged in 1908 & committed suicide; Ol' lady died & old man became restless & died in 1940.

Always poor, spent \$20.00 per yr, salt, <sup>coffee,</sup> cigars, snuff  
buried \$6 tax. MAD E THOREAU looks like a spendthrift  
Carried wood, raised his own potatoes...

Went into houses, saved crap all winter for garden. Smell newspapers. Sheets of music he had composed & written... Long mathematical equations in notebook. Book (nothing) Big Smoke bible tried with \$3,800 in 20's. Cans of crap, 1 heavy. Can filled <sup>lined</sup> with cement. In tin can was 3 bank books for about a grand; stocks, unclipped coupons, un cashed checks. Had nearly \$30,000.00. (800.00 funeral)

Ada Mrs Dowell = Lincoln pennies, \$100 bills,

Old Mc Grinnis = Stuffed in chair:

Gratitude { John Fosbury -- Starved to death -- Left \$106,000  
{ Left boarding lady \$500.00 = 3 floors ruin = Didn't come to funeral. --

V. A. found 16-1000 bills in pack sack of old TB.

~~STORIES~~

Trip to cabin - 2 trains - 14 miles on sled -  
toboggan = thaw out - embalm - hand out -  
for them again - losing back - No \$ - No pay

man lost in woods - 3 days = 1 hand on  
hills = Basket = Tow across in boat = Dead River

Van Brocklin Harids - Part in middle - What was wrong

Trance  
or more: MRS. Nicolson taken to morgue in big city hospital  
She knew when doctor came in - powerless to speak  
1 heart beat per minute = lived 23 more years - "old one"

Paraly  
man died in ship hosp., hauled to undertaker's  
morgue --- <sup>on slab in morgue</sup> Admitted state of pleura - pneumonia  
slight <sup>breathing</sup> --- lived 2 more days ---

# Mortician.

1: Mercken, Vol. 1, P. 287, etc

2: " " Suppl. 1 - P. 567, etc

3: Elmer Davis on page <sup>572</sup>

30 of the American Mercury

for May, 1927.

P. 33 -

"A mortician is never called  
a mortician by anybody  
but another mortician."

- CORPSC = Body or remains

Shroud - Negligé

• COFFIN - HEARSE - CEMETERY

GRAVEYARD

Mar. 16, 1948. Ency. Americana

Embalming goes back at least to 4000 B.C. It

was probably invented by the Egyptians, but it also prevailed among the Assyrians, Scythians and Persians. Mummies placed in costly coffins for sepulture, but were frequently kept some time before burial -- often at home -- and were produced at entertainments, to recall to the guests the transient lot of mankind.

Usual method - Intestines & brain removed, and cavities filled up with a mixture of balsamic herbs, myrror, cassia, etc. The arteries and other vessels were injected with <sup>presumably knowledge of</sup> balsams. The ancient Egyptian filled the cavities of the trunk with aromatic, saline & bituminous stuff. Clotter saturated in same. Literally pickled. Mummies have been found whose feet still soft & elastic. Art discont. about 700 AD - <sup>Est</sup> Probably 730,000,000 bodies thus treated --- many millions still concealed.

Persians used wax; Assyrians honey; the Jews also & spices. Alex. the Great preserved in wax & honey.

The body of Edw I buried in Westminster Abbey in 1307 was found ~~entire~~ entire in 1770. The body of Canute, who died in 1036 was found beautifully preserved in Westminster Cathedral in 1776. In the 16th cent the body of William the Conq. was found entire at Caen.

Early modern embalmers used Charassier in 1800, who discovered preservation of corrosive sublimate. Abandoned because desiccating & warped features.

The latest method common in US is inj. of a fluid in femoral ~~art~~ artery and the cavity of the abdomen. Most efficient agents are mercuric chloride, arsenic and zinc chloride. Aim to prevent communication of infection.

"Encyclopedia Americana"

## 41 Embalming (Butanica)

modern embalming comprises the

- ① injection of several gallons of emb. solution into an artery. Solution clears body of blood & penetrates to remove tissue cells. ~~about~~
- ② aspiration of gases & fluids from trunk cavity by large hollow needle =
- ③ Back & trunk walls injected by large hypoderm. needle.
- ④ Viscera is removed in emb. solution & then replaced in trunk cavity.

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US Laws forbid ~~use~~ require cert percent of formaldehyde in the emb. fluid formula, which also contains alcohol, salts, dyes & agents to aid penetration and delay dehydration.



On trance the appearance of death is much more appa. striking, consciousness is usually abolished, pale, rigid muscles, reflexes may be lost & pupils dilated & immobile.

Known cases of resuscitation after body under water for an hour.

Signs of death - Circulation, respiration, muscular reaction and certain changes in the eye. --- Use mirror to detect ~~for~~ breathing or glass of water on chest. --- Muscular changes are first complete relaxation followed by great stiffness (rigor mortis) usually 16 to 36 hours. no rule...

### Disposition of Dead

Cremation believed nearly as old as burial. --- Greeks practiced, and evidence that ancient Hebrews. Indians today. ---

Ancient Etruscans kept burial urns with

ashes of forebears. --- Undoubt. some religious notion of purification by fire

\* Contamination of the earth, air & water. ---

## → Death

Strictly speaking, we can trace only the cessation of organic life. The matter of which the body is composed does not perish; it undergoes changes which we call decay or putrefaction, but which, in nature, is merely a change in form and preparation for its becoming subservient to new forms of life. -- What becomes of the mind & memory <sup>and personality</sup> is a subject for philosophical conjecture or the farrago; Science sheds not a whit of light upon the subject --

Technically, death proceeds from the heart and the brain. --- State of apparent death. ---

Comatose state -- Putrefaction is best evidence of death -- blood becomes more fluid and discharge from ~~both~~ all bodily

orifices ---

Growth of hair ---

Asphyxia or drowning or electrical shock

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States of apparent death -- Catalepsy and Trance states, fainting, partial asphyxia.

→ In catalepsy there is <sup>believed to be</sup> loss of consciousness, the muscles become rigid (not limbs) & temp, is lowered