

JUNE 14 1976  
NOT AVAILABLE

## The Oregon Memorial Service: Planning for a simple service

The Oregon Memorial Association, founded in 1961, is a non-profit, non-denominational association dedicated to assisting its members to reduce death costs.

Under contract to form local mortuaries, the Association concentrates the buying power of its members and is able to assure the desired services at lower cost.

Members are encouraged to make their plans before death, thus relieving their family of this responsibility in the time of grief.

The Association philosophy is that funeral costs should be kept at a minimum through simple services and through knowing the legal requirements. Although members are free to determine what type of funeral arrangements they want, there is an encouragement toward simple costs, funeral or memorial services in churches or homes, and a lack of ostentation.

Funerals can be expensive and they are often planned under emotional stress. Unwise decisions are made that can cripple a family financially. Often other alternatives can not only be less expensive, but can emphasize deeper meaning of the occasion.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING MEMORIAL SOCIETIES

**Question:** What is a memorial society?

**Answer:** A memorial society is a group of people who have joined together to obtain dignity, simplicity and economy in funeral arrangements by advance planning.

**Question:** It is run by funeral directors?

**Answer:** No, it is a people's cooperative organization that assists its members in selecting a funeral director and in getting the services they want.

**Question:** How is it controlled?

**Answer:** It is a democratic organization managed by an unpaid board of directors elected from its membership.

**Question:** Who organizes memorial societies?

**Answer:** They usually are initiated by a church or a ministerial association; occasionally by labor, civic or educational groups; sometimes by a few concerned individuals.

**Question:** Is membership limited?

**Answer:** No. Even though a society may have been organized by a church or civic group, it is open to all regardless of creed, color, occupation or nationality.

**Question:** How are memorial societies supported?

**Answer:** Most have a lifetime membership fee of \$10 or \$15 plus a \$5 records charge at time of death. Some receive bequests and other gifts.

**Question:** Who does the work?

**Answer:** The members. Most societies are run by unpaid officers and committees, some by church staffs. A few larger ones have part or full time paid secretaries.

**Question:** What happens when you join?

**Answer:** The society lets you know what kinds of funeral services are available and at what cost. You talk it over in your family and decide on your pre-

ference, then fill out forms provided by the society.

**Question:** Can these plans be cancelled or changed later?

**Answer:** Certainly. Any time.

**Question:** How does pre-planning help at time of death?

**Answer:** In several ways:

1. You know what you want, how to get it and what it will cost. You don't have to choose a casket or negotiate for a funeral.
2. Your family understands what is being done. Simplicity

will not be mistaken for miserliness or lack of respect.

3. By accepting the reality of death in advance, and by discussing it frankly, you and your family are better able to meet it when it comes.

**Question:** Why is embalming usually practiced in this country?

**Answer:** unless otherwise advised the funeral director assumes there will be viewing of the body, and a service in its presence, and that embalming and "restoration" are desired, if

this is not the case, and if the body is not to be held for a funeral service, he will omit embalming if so requested.

**Question:** What appropriate disposition can be made of a body?

**Answer:** There are three alternatives:

1. Earth burial was once the simplest and most economical arrangement. With increasing population, rising land values, cost of caskets, vaults and other

items usually required, it is becoming more and more costly.

2. Cremation, a clean orderly method of returning the body to the elements, is economical and is rapidly increasing in use.

3. Bequeathal to a medical school performs a valuable service and saves expense. In many areas there is a shortage of bodies for the proper training of doctors. Many public spirited people leave their bodies for this purpose. The eye-banks, too, need donors.

## EMANUEL HOSPITAL MODEL CITIES LIAISON COMMITTEE

*An opportunity for representatives from the community and the hospital to come together, share ideas and reach a better understanding of each other's problems.*

CURRENTLY, THE MODEL CITIES LIAISON COMMITTEE IS WORKING WITH THE HOSPITAL IN IMPLEMENTING EMANUEL'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN WHICH WAS APPROVED IN APRIL, 1975, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

### AT MONTHLY MEETINGS --

- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES;
- AVAILABLE COMMUNITY SERVICES;
- HEALTH CARE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND
- EMANUEL HOSPITAL'S BUILDING AND REMODELING PROGRAM

ARE DISCUSSED, SO THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION LINK BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE HOSPITAL.



BOB ROGERS

THE COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED SIX YEARS AGO WITH MODEL CITIES FUNDING AND HAS REMAINED AN ACTIVE LIAISON BETWEEN THE HOSPITAL AND THE COMMUNITY.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOB ROGERS, CHAIRMAN  
HARRY WARD  
JIM LOVING  
LEROY PATTEN  
ROBERT KING  
GRACYE BALDWIN  
JACK DEYAMPERT  
VERNON SUMMERS  
THE REV. JOHN JACKSON