

Death: A time for sorrow and enrichment

We are brought into the world through the miracle of birth; and we must be aware that the end of life's cycle is death and be prepared for it. Most people do not like to think about death, especially of their own death and the death of those they love. But this is a fact that must be faced -- "For everything there is a season ... a time to be born and a time to die."

The funeral traditions of today have evolved through the centuries as a result of man's wish to honor the dead and his need to grasp the finality of death. In all cultures some type of burial rights are observed. Although sometimes designed to aid the deceased to step into the "great beyond"; the real reason for the funeral rite is to prepare the survivor, not the deceased. The funeral service symbolizes the beliefs of the society, its ideals and its religion.

It is because death is imminent for all that it should be discussed openly. It is only recently that death has become a topic for conversation and only recently that the dying patient and his

family have been able to accept and face death together.

There is a universal need to express grief, at the time of death, which can be met in different ways, depending on the individual and on his culture. Weeping offers a wholesome release and should not be discouraged. Talking about the deceased can help the survivors to face the reality of death. Failure to express grief can hamper one's adjustment to a new life without the deceased.

In pioneer days, when the family built the casket and dug the grave, the concept, death was easier to grasp. Participation in the funeral or memorial service can make a more positive experience.

The best way to accept the reality of death is to discuss it and plan for it in advance and to conduct a sensitive and meaningful service that meets the needs of the particular family. With proper planning, when death comes it will not bring the emotional and financial crisis that will destroy the family re-

maining.

One function of the funeral service is to rehabilitate the memory of the deceased by bringing what he did and what he stood for into focus. If this is done skillfully, the survivors will carry a happy image with them. The service also can cultivate a sense of identity with the deceased. The survivors can be helped to remember that they shared his life, and that in this lies the power to immortalize him. They can carry on his values and his work.

Death broadens relationships. After a death, a new set of relationships must develop. It is almost unusual that at the time of death, the survivor thinks seriously on the meaning of life and this can be a time of inspiration and enrichment.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A memorial service is a service held after the body has been removed. A funeral service is held in the presence of the body.

CREMATION

Cremation is a clean, orderly method of disposing of the body. The ashes are clean and white and may be stored indefinitely. Some families prefer to have the ashes scattered over the ocean or on a mountain top. Oregon has no laws prohibiting scattering, except over populated areas.

CALCINATION

Calcination accomplishes the same results as cremation but does not use a flame. It is a drying process, using inert, sun-like heat. Calcination is slightly more expensive than cremation but is less costly than ground interment or vault entombment.

FUNERALS

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**THE KIND OF LIFE YOU LIVE
TELLS SOMETHING ABOUT THE
KIND OF FUNERAL YOU WANT.**

A will is a necessity

A man living in a western city died at an early age, leaving a wife and five children. In spite of the fact that the man had denied his family many of the comforts and necessities of life, he had bought two run-down houses and had paid for their homes in a slum area. He also had put \$5,000 in a savings account.

After his death, his family received practically nothing. The bulk of the estate went to the state and to attorneys. Much of what little cash they received had to be used to pay the man's unpaid bills.

This is not a unique case. It is astonishing how many families, and especially young people, do not have wills. They assume the estate will go to the surviving spouse, but do not consider the legal fees involved if there is no will.

A will allows the individual to plan for his estate and how it will be handled. For example he can have a family member act as executor and save the fees that would go to a court appointed executor.

A will allows the person to spill out exactly how and to whom he wants his property distributed. Without a will, state statutes define how the estate will be divided among the heirs.

A properly prepared will allows the

individual to direct the administration of his affairs after death. He can select his own executor -- remember members of his family or friends -- leave gifts to the church, charities, schools.

A will should be drawn by an attorney to insure that it is properly done.

One of the important decisions in preparing a will is the choice of an executor. The executor will see that the provisions of the will are carried out and perform many important tasks in settling the estate. The executor should be someone who has experience and judgment because his judgements can effect the size of the estate and the time involved in settling it.

The will should list all significant pieces of property, including those of sentimental as well as monetary value. These should all be assigned to the person that is designated to receive them. In the case of money it is better to leave percentages, since the amounts change.

In drawing up a will, an attorney can estimate the amount of estate taxes the heirs will have to pay and an insurance policy can be provided to cover them. This will avoid the necessity of having to sell property to obtain cost for taxes.

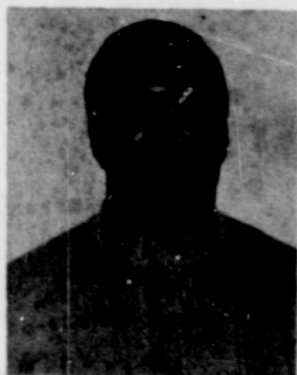


The kind of person you are, the standards you've lived by, your beliefs, your hobbies -- these are a few of the things that tell Caldwell's people what kind of funeral you might want. And that's why each farewell that Caldwell's arranges is different. It might be a reading of favorite poems, or a classical or rock concert, or it might take the form of a celebration party at a favorite haunt. Each choice

bears the imprint of the person it honors.

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