



THE DAYBREAKER

August 25th, 2022



Today we had 19 in person and 6 Zoom attendees

This quarter all Happy Bucks will benefit **Life Has No Boundaries**. Please be very happy to benefit this great organization.

Service Opportunities:

If you have interest in volunteering at Food Finders Food Bank, please contact Larry Fisher

GUESTS: Former Exchange student Johanna Reinson (guest of Rebecca Peters)

VISITING ROTARIANS: John Heller

INVOCATION: Ken Ritchey



Gerard presents his autobiographical sketch.

PROGRAM: Denis Horn ~ Green Burials

Denis spoke to us today as a retired Funeral Home Director, but also as the Director of the Springdale Cemetery Green Burial program. Springdale has one of three Green Burial programs in the state, the others in Crawfordsville and Indianapolis. This opened in 2008 with 350 sites, of which about 25% have been used, with an additional 20 acres that could be used in the future.

Historically burials were “green” until the death of Abraham Lincoln. The public was amazed that embalming preserved his body well enough for his long cross-country trip and multiple viewings. After that embalming and caskets became much more popular but has actually never been mandated unless you are going to have to ship the body. Similarly, there is no law that burial vaults are needed, but many cemeteries mandate it to protect the burial sites from heavy equipment such as mowers and backhoes.

The desire for green burials came about to try to protect the environment. The last year for which data is available there was over 800,000 gallons of formaldehyde used for embalming as well as 4.3 million gallons of embalming fluid. Even with cremations the carbon footprint of this process is equivalent to the pollution from 57,000 automobiles.

Denis pointed out that there are several levels of green burials. Light green burials are used with a biodegradable casket but a solid dome over the area to protect from equipment. Medium green allows the body to be embalmed with a non-formaldehyde substance and a biodegradable casket, thus allowing for a more conventional viewing, while dark green burials use only a shroud around the body.

The area for green burials is kept as natural as possible with paths from natural mulch and native plants and grasses. Often wildflowers are used to mark the path to the burial site and the body is lowered into the grave with natural materials, such as logs to support the casket, which cannot have nails or mechanical fasteners. If a wooden casket is used it must be pegged, but most of the caskets are a basket-type material.

The body cannot be buried with jewelry or belt buckles which would not return to the soil. If a shroud is used a sling is used to lower the body.



There are 2 areas where technology is used. First, they do use equipment to dig the graves as it is hard to find workers who will dig the graves by hand. The second is that each body or cremains are buried with a GPS ball, programmed so the families can use a tracker to find where the body is buried as there are no headstones or monuments. A simple engraved rock is used to mark the site, but this may be moved over time due to weather and ground changes.

The service itself is a little different. Often there is not a viewing at the funeral home or church and because of this and the lack of a need for a traditional casket and burial vault the cost may be \$2,000-\$5,000 less. They also do allow for cremated remains to be buried in a biodegradable urn, again marked with the GPS ball. You can easily have a military service and often the families will shovel the first of the dirt, or even

all of the dirt, into the grave.

Thought of the Week: Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives.— *Michelle Obama*

Trivia Question for the week: What was the name of the strike which led to making Labor Day a national holiday?

Answer from last week's trivia question: Which man's image appeared on the first one-dollar bill?

The first one-dollar bill was printed as a form of legal tender in 1862 during the Civil War. Salmon P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury under Abraham Lincoln, had the distinct honor of designing the original US \$1 bill. So, whose image do you suppose he put on that bill? Himself, of course. The bill featured a portrait of Salmon P. Chase, the treasury seal, intricate patterns, and engraved signatures to thwart counterfeiting. The bill was larger than modern bills, measuring 7 & 3/8 inches by 3 & 1/8 inches. In 1869, the one-dollar bill was redesigned with a portrait of President George Washington in the center.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- September 1 – District Governor Mekey McAllen Visit
- September 8 – (Carl Schwamberger)
- September 15 – John Hughey – Long Center and Lafayette Theatre
- September 22 – Raquel Lopez – Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette
- October 6 – (Matt Salsbery)

The Clock has been installed downtown – more information on the dedication ceremony to follow!



