

'Time Chronicle' features trip back in time

by Mary Ellen McKown, Contributor

During Spring Fling, the junior class will sponsor a booth featuring *The Time Chronicle*.

This computer printout will display different facts about a certain day in history. This is a great idea for someone's birthday or anniversary.

The *Chronicle* includes: headlines of

the month, a consumer price index (did you know that a new Ford cost \$780.00 on November 11, 1911 and that the average for a new home was only \$3,395.00?), commodities, sports news, the Arts, and politics.

The *Chronicle* comes on a sheet of paper for \$1. For \$2 it can be made to look like a birthday or anniversary card.

Get your dates ready, and come join the fun on April 20 at the island!

Correction

The *Meredith Herald* apologizes for incorrectly listing Kimberly May and Mollie Ashe, class marshalls, as honor council representatives in the "Third slate elections results posted" article in the April 7 issue. The correct honor council representatives from the sophomore class are Connie Bates and Sharon Edwards.

Sense of loss eased by funeral director

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charge papers if your father was in the service, his social security number and the inner and outer garments you wish him to be buried in. Are you all right? Good. Do you wish to have the body embalmed? Okay. I'll see you at 10:00 a.m. today. Good-by."

When the family arrives, Barbour greets them and escorts them to the arrangements room. It is a comfortable place decorated in warm earth-tone colors: orange, beige and green. "We try to create a homey atmosphere — nothing stark or dreary," Barbour said.

An itemized list of the services and merchandise available to the family lies on the table in front of the sofa where the family usually sits. All funeral directors are now required by law to go over all prices with the family. A purchase agreement must be signed at the end of the first meeting. This procedure can be very difficult for the family, but must be endured, according to Barbour.

While the family discussed funeral arrangements with Barbour, the deceased is being embalmed in another room and prepared for visitation. The embalming process involves flushing the blood which disinfects and preserves the body. Barbour has a funeral service license which enables him not only to arrange funerals but to embalm as well. Most funeral directors have this license. When Barbour is not working with a family, he is usually in the embalming room. The embalming process takes between one-and-a-half to two hours.

Once the funeral arrangements are covered, Barbour asks the family to make a casket selection. This is often

the hardest part for the family, according to Barbour.

"It is often when it hits them for the first time that they are really going to have to bury their loved one. I have had people walk in the casket selection room and faint. I always tell them to let me know if they feel uneasy and they can come back later," Barbour said.

Upon entering the selection room, Barbour changes hats. He becomes a salesman, but he says he never pushes anything on anyone. "I never encourage anyone to purchase a casket they cannot afford," Barbour said.

He walks through the room slowly describing the 24 caskets in the room and answering all questions. One can choose from a hardwood casket with velvet or rough cloth interior or a metal casket of the same interior. Barbour prefers the hardwoods because of their "warmth and beauty." The casket prices range from \$245 to \$5100. During the selection process, Barbour accommodates the family in every way, going as far as to remove his coat and lay it in the casket to let the family see how that color coordinates with the interior.

After explaining the casket materials and prices, Barbour excuses himself from the room to give the family time to choose the casket they want.

Then the family is asked to choose a burial vault in which the casket will be placed before it is buried. The burial vault protects the casket and supports the weight of the earth on top of it. Burial vaults range in price from \$595 to \$9350.

The first meeting with the family, which involves the funeral arrangements, casket selection and burial vault selection, usually takes between one and

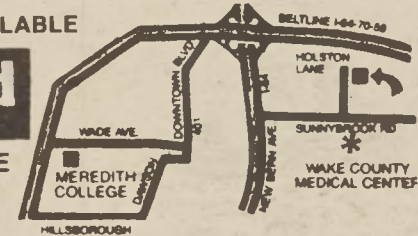
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three hours. Barbour remains in close contact with the family throughout the entire funeral process from the first meeting to the visitation of friends and family to the actual funeral and burial. Once the funeral is over, Barbour advises the family of post-bereavement counseling services available through Brown-Wynne.

The funeral process is not only a burden emotionally, but also financially. Barbour is aware of this, but regards the funeral as a "necessary service."

"Funerals are for the living not for the dead. It meets the psychological, theological, and sociological needs of the survivors," said Barbour who is currently working on a thesis which deals with how funerals meet these needs. The thesis will be applied toward higher certification in his field.

Funeral directors operate under the belief that "when you share love, it will increase, and when you share grief, it diminishes," Barbour said, quoting Howard Raether, a retired board member of the National Funeral Directors Association.

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