

# VIEWPOINT

NEWSLETTER

www.indianacemeteryassociation.org

Winter 2009



## A Message from the Vice President.

Dear Fellow Cemeterians,

Casey called me last week to remind me of his request for my contribution to this edition of the ICA Newsletter. He could not hear it, but, my reaction included a great big deep breath and sigh. It's not the time it takes to submit a contribution; it's the grueling thought process that takes place in trying to come up with subject matter that just might interest the reader. You've been there! Well, here is my best stab at it.

The Funeral and Cemetery profession was built on honesty, integrity, and compassion. It is my opinion that the image of our business has been blemished over the years. What is the general public's image of our industry today compared to 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 50 years ago? Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what we really are.

Two old ladies were walking around a somewhat overcrowded English country churchyard and came upon a tombstone. The inscription read: "Here lies John Smith, a politician and an honest man."

"Good heavens!" said one lady to the other; "Isn't it awful that they had to put two people in the same grave!"

All of us have known of those who were not the same on the outside as they were on the inside. Sadly, many people work harder on their images at the expense of their personal integrity. Often, friends who thought they really knew them are unpleasantly surprised. Have you heard of the term; guilty by association. I don't think I need to go any further with this discussion.

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## A Little Funny.

### Guaranteed Visits.

An elderly woman from Brooklyn decided to prepare her will and make her final requests. She told her rabbi she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Bloomingdales.

"Bloomingdales!" the rabbi exclaimed. "Why Bloomingdales?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

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County soldiers, Lieut. John Townsend Young, who died in 1941 at the age of 94. On February 17, 1978 Lindenwood was approved by the United States Department of Interior for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The entrance to the cemetery with its iron gate and fence was completed in 1884. Just inside the front gate are six flag poles erected in 2002 and dedicated to the branches of the United States Armed Forces and POW/MIA's. In addition, in 2002, Lindenwood, dedication a portion of our Westridge section exclusively for veterans and their spouses. A beautiful feature sets aside this area.

Lindenwood's Avenue of Flags is on display four times a year to honor America and those who have who have served our country in the military.

Our current maintenance building even today is referred to as the "Palm House". This building was originally the greenhouse for the Bass Estate and housed hundreds of tropical plants.

Lindenwood's historic Chapel of the Woods built in 1895 is a Fort Wayne and it is still in use. Our Bohn Chapel was dedicated in 1967 and is named after Frank E. Bohn a former President of Lindenwood. Most of Lindenwood's interment services take place in that chapel. Glass fronted cremation niches are located inside the Bohn Chapel. The reflecting pool, outside of the chapel was built in

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Lindenwood was founded in July of 1859 and opened to the public on May 30, 1860 (the year Lincoln was elected President). Ironically, in 1883, following the Battle of Gettysburg, an act of Congress selected May 30 as a day to honor the war dead (Memorial Day). The land where Lindenwood sits was acquired by treaty from the Potawatomi Indians in 1826.

The first burial at Lindenwood was on July 6, 1850. 2010 will mark Lindenwood's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With almost 69,000 interments and 175 acres it is one of the largest cemeteries in Indiana. Virtually all the founding fathers of Fort Wayne rest in Lindenwood.

Some of the first burials in Lindenwood were 40 disinterments that were transferred from the old city cemetery on Broadway Street across from the General Electric plant (McCulloch Park). The park still retains the body of Samuel Bigger, seventh governor of Indiana. The governor could not be removed for legal reasons, as no relatives were available to grant permission for the transfer.

Lindenwood is also the final resting place for hundreds of Civil War Veterans. The Union Army was composed of 2.8 million soldiers. Over 4,000 were from Allen County. A plaque was given in Gratitude for the Allen County Union Army personnel in the Civil War and also honors the last survivor of those Allen



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John C. Maxwell proposes that we ask ourselves the following questions to determine if we are into image building instead of integrity building:

- Consistency: Are you the same person no matter who you are with?
- Choices: Do you make decisions that are best for others when another choice would benefit you?
- Credit: Are you quick to recognize others for their efforts and contributions to your success? Thomas McCauley said, "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he would never be found out." John C. Maxwell reminds us; "Life is like a vise; at times it will squeeze us. At those moments of pressure, whatever is inside will be found out. We cannot give what we do not have. Image promises much but produces little. Integrity never disappoints."

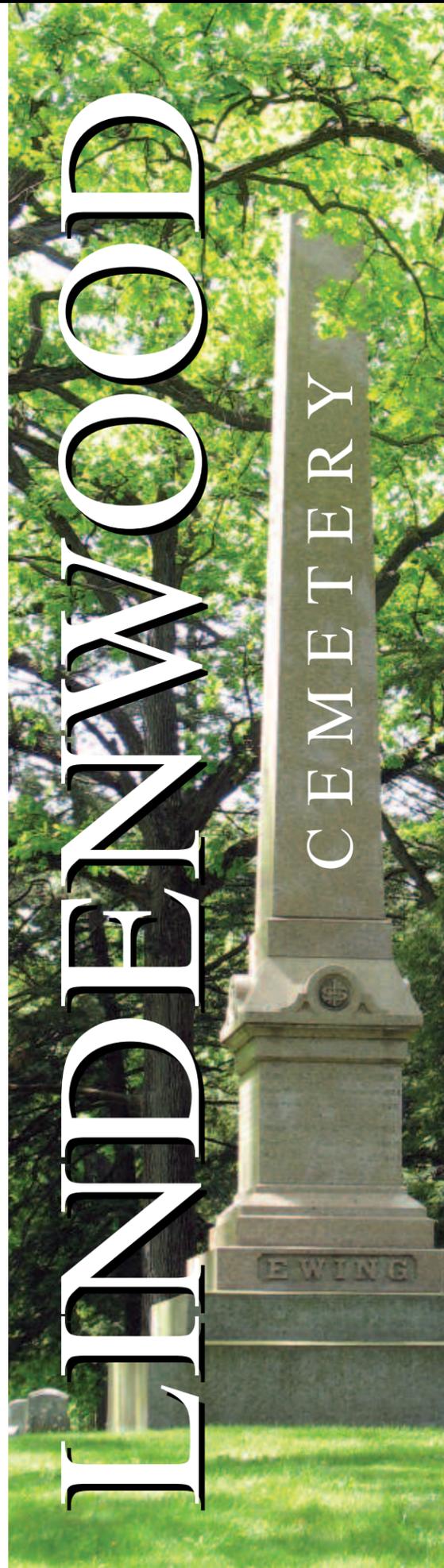
Are you image-focused or integrity-focused? What is the culture of your business and are you doing everything you can to protect its integrity?

I am proud to be associated with the death care industry. As well, I am proud to be a member of the ICA. I truly believe that its membership is made up of people and businesses that display a great amount of integrity. In this lies a great amount of the value in being and maintaining your membership. Please make a commitment in 2009 to embrace your Association and best wishes to all for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2009.

G. Bradley Kraft  
Vice President



G. Bradley Kraft



## EDITOR'S NOTE



"Regardless where you live in Indiana it is definitely worth a day trip to visit historic Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne. Lindenwood general manager Tom Pehlke has done a phenomenal job with Lindenwood and the challenges presented with managing

and caring for an older cemetery. After visiting Lindenwood travel to Lake Avenue and visit Catholic and Concordia Cemetery. Concordia is just a short drive north of Catholic Cemetery. This should make for a very interesting day!"



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1972, is at the site of the old historic lake located there in the middle 1800s.

Our newest Chapel (Gardenview Chapel) was opened in 2007. Lindenwood's Gardenview Mausoleum complex is located in an area that was once the parade grounds which was the final destination for every Memorial Day Parade. The center feature of that complex is a magnificent 55-foot Schulmerich Carillon bell tower erected in 1977. Lindenwood's bell tower is a commanding landmark for the community and serves as a tribute to those who rest here.

One of the most unusual and historic monuments in Lindenwood is this 35-foot Ewing memorial (at left) comprised of Scottish granite. It was erected over a large underground vault which can hold 38 remains. Colonel Ewing served in the Continental Army and fought in the War of 1812.

Lindenwood is host to many school tours every year. These tours are from schools located in Fort Wayne and surrounding Allen County. School ages range from kindergarten to college level. Types of tours also vary from a 2-hour emphasis on Fort Wayne History, which utilizes our Pioneers Resting in Historic Lindenwood and The Lindenwood Story books which are given to these schools at no charge to a multi-day event that encompassing multiple classes including history, math, science, and art.

WFWA 39 Fort Wayne's local PBS station has produced an hour-long television documentary, Memorial City: The Lindenwood Chronicles that traces the history of Fort Wayne through the eyes of Lindenwood Cemetery. These videos are given to area schools and civic groups.

Lindenwood offers virtually all varieties of memorialization, including private walk-in

mausoleums, community interior and exterior mausoleums private family estates, cremation niches and benches, and multiple monument and flush marker sections.

Lindenwood since 1860 has remained dedicated to serving Allen County families by providing a beautiful final resting place for community residents.

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