

# VIEWPOINT

NEWSLETTER

January 2006

Winter 2006 Feature Cemetery:

# Cedar Grove

C E M E T E R Y

by Leon Glon - 574-631-7646

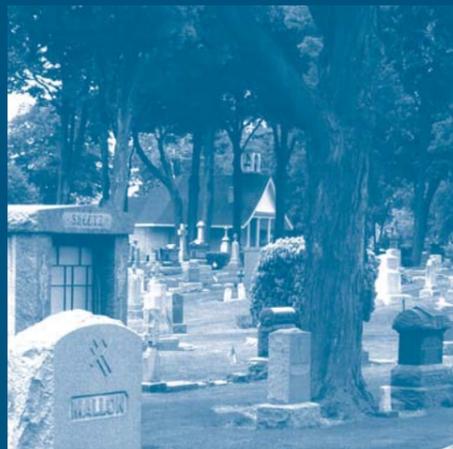
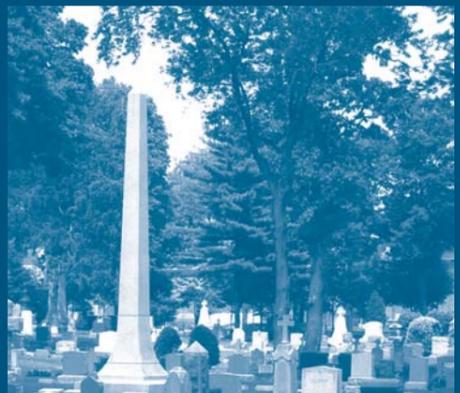
thus its local and historic interest in Northern Indiana. Ownership and responsibility for the cemetery was transferred from Holy Cross to the university in the 1970s, and because of rapidly dwindling availability, in 1977 the cemetery became private, open to Notre Dame faculty, staff and retirees with the requisite years of service.

### ONLY GHOSTS

According to current Sexton, Leon Glon, the question he inevitably is asked when giving tours of Cedar Grove is, "Where is Rock's grave?" referring to legendary football coach Knute Rockne. While fans of many nail-biting Notre Dame football victories would swear Knute still inhabits campus, especially Notre Dame Stadium on Saturdays in the fall, Rockne is buried in the nearby Highland Cemetery which, at the time of his death, offered perpetual care when Cedar Grove did not. George "the Gipper" Gipp, Coach Rockne's player made famous by Ronald Reagan's portrayal in "Knute Rockne All American," reportedly also still resides on campus, specifically the second floor of Washington Hall Theater. However, like Rockne, George Gipp is not buried at Cedar Grove but in his hometown in Michigan.

### CURRENT OPERATIONS

After two significant expansions in 1977



and 1999, Cedar Grove Cemetery encompasses 22 acres, the newest portions occupying space formerly part of a university golf course. There are over 17,000 interments to date, with fewer than 3,000 graves available. The cemetery averages between 40 and 50 burials a year, with a higher than average cremation rate of roughly 35%.

In 2003-04, All Souls Chapel, originally built in the 1840s was extensively renovated, including adding heating and cooling systems and re-fabricating and restoring the original onion-shaped steeple to its peak. Services take place in the 40 seat chapel throughout the year and the chapel serves as a focal point of the cemetery.

Because of the limited and small remaining inventory, and spurred from persistent requests from Notre Dame alumni, a new initiative, the "Coming Home Project" is underway to study interest and feasibility of constructing above-ground interment options available to alumni in addition to Notre Dame faculty and staff. Leon Glon and his staff of two keep alumni and others informed of cemetery history and happenings through websites (cemetery.nd.edu and cominghome.nd.edu), impromptu and scheduled tours, and keep Cedar Grove shining like the beautiful gem it is at the University of Notre Dame.

## A Little Funny.

Tommy and Math

Little Tommy was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything; tutors, flash cards, special learning centers, in short, everything they could think of. Finally in a last ditch effort, they took Tommy down and enrolled him in a local Catholic School.

After the first day, little Tommy comes home with a very serious look on his face. He doesn't kiss his mother hello. Instead, he goes straight to his room and starts studying. Books & papers are spread out all over the room and little Tommy is hard at work. His mother is amazed. She calls him down to dinner and to her shock, the minute he is done he marches back to his room without a word and in no time he is back hitting the books as hard as before.

This goes on for sometime, day-after-day while the mother tries to understand what made all the difference. Finally, little Tommy brings home his report card. He quietly lays it on the table and goes up to his room and hits the books.

With great trepidation, his mom looks at it and to her surprise; little Tommy got an A in math. She can no longer hold her curiosity. She goes to his room and says: "Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?" Little Tommy looks at her and shakes his head. "Well then," she replies, "was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms, WHAT was it?"

Little Tommy looks at her and says, Well, on the first day of school, when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around."

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## A MESSAGE From Our President.

Of all the things that the Indiana Cemetery Association (ICA) supports and stands for, nothing is more important than its active involvement on the legislative level. Whether you care to acknowledge it or not, our Indiana General Assembly can have and has had a very important impact on cemetery operations over the years. I, along with the entire ICA board, feel strongly about maintaining an active presence when it comes to legislative activity that affects our businesses. We need to remain vigilant for bills that are introduced on either side of the General Assembly as well as being pro-active by introducing bills ourselves when the time is appropriate.



ate. However, in order to do this, it does take financial resources.

Let me do a brief review of some legislation over the last several years that has effected our operations in a positive fashion. In no particular order they are:

- The exclusive right for a cemetery to open and close graves, crypts and niches.
- The exclusive right for a cemetery to install memorials and monuments (same rates must be charged if the memorial/monument is provided by an outside dealer)
- The pre-need consumer protection fund.
- The right to correct a wrongful burial or entombment without liability.
- Trust/Escrow laws that gave us the 90/10 provision.
- The ability to attach a percentage of the annual principal gained related to your entombment care.
- The ability to withdraw income earned from your endowment care fund.
- The Pre-Need Act and subsequent improvements to it.
- Disinterment statute (that needs to be revisited).
- Cremation statute.
- Helped influence the present VA memorial statute.
- Spent numerous hours educating members of the Indiana General Assembly about our association and industry.
- Last year's session prevented a power of attorney from overturning the deceased's pre-need wishes.

### OFFICERS

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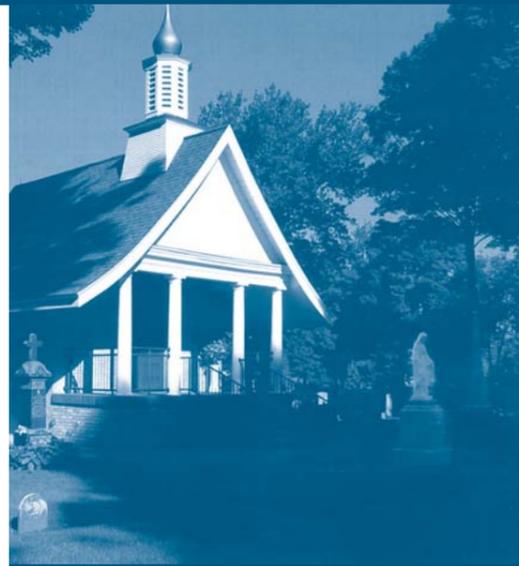


I remember reading, sometime back, that the best way to predict your future is to create it. Well, for the ICA to continue to create and stay involved with legislation that will impact your operations positively, it takes the financial means to do it. As you should know, we have not had a Political Action Committee (PAC) fund for several years now and it has been twenty or so years since we have had an increase in our membership dues that you pay annually. When you receive your notice of dues for 2006 there will be an increase from \$1.00 per burial to \$1.20 per burial. We will still have the minimum of \$50 as well as the cap of \$1,000. This modest increase will be used to help keep us involved on the legislative level.

I think it is important to mention that it only takes one time, one situation when we are not "watching the store" to place all of us in a position where we lose some control. It only takes one person, one sponsor of a bill to adversely affect us. I certainly would not want that to happen because we could not afford to have our eyes and ears in the right places. A lobbyist looking out for us on a full-time basis is the only way to accomplish this. We simply have to understand and accept two very important factors: One is that we need to stay involved legislatively. Two, this involvement does take money!

We have been fortunate enough to establish a great relationship with Bill Keown and his staff over the last few years as our lobbyist, and we certainly want to continue this productive relationship. Bill has become the "go-to-guy" at the state house when questions or issues come up related to cemeteries and it is in all of our best interests to do what we can to see that continues. So, all of us need to clearly understand the advantages of paying now rather than later. We pay now and we enhance our control over the legislative results, we pay later and not only are we not being pro-active but it could most certainly cost us all a lot more. Cost in dollars as well as the day-to-day operation of our businesses. The one thing that none of us can afford to do is to be short-sighted, thinking that future politics will not affect our business. It certainly can and will if we are not on watch!

Ray Sabol, ICA President 765-463-2383



Located on the southwest corner of campus, Cedar Grove Cemetery at the University of Notre Dame holds interest and intrigue for students, local residents and visitors alike. For amateur historians, Cedar Grove offers a veritable "who's who" of South Bend and northern Indiana settlers and notable figures, including South Bend co-founder Alex Coquillard, Pierre Navarre and a monument to a group of Potawatomi Indians re-interred there from a nearby burial mound. Sports fans can visit the graves of Heisman Trophy winner Leon Hart, All-American Chuck Sweeney, or former Notre Dame Athletic Director "Moose" Krause. And for all who stroll its wooded grounds, among a few remaining cedars from which the cemetery took its name, Cedar Grove offers a place of beauty, honor and reverence.

#### HISTORY

True to its pioneering and visionary spirit, Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., established Cedar Grove Cemetery in 1843, a year after founding the University of Notre Dame. At the time of its founding, Cedar Grove was on the far outskirts of campus, run by the Holy Cross priests and brothers also charged with keeping a fledgling university afloat. The Holy Cross brothers established a mortuary in these early years, ran operations from the basement level of what is now a women's residence hall, and used a horse-drawn hearse to transport coffins from Sacred Heart Church, in the center of the campus, out to the cemetery. The mortuary operation, one of the first in the state of Indiana, was sold in 1911 to a local owner still in business today.

Throughout the balance of the 19th and most of the 20th century, Cedar Grove was a Catholic cemetery open to the public,

*Continued on page 5*

## From the Maintenance Dept.: QUALITY Always Counts

by John R. Modlin, Groundskeeper

Maplewood Cemetery is a 103 year old traditional cemetery located on a gently rolling 148 acre site inside the city limits of Anderson, Indiana and adjacent to the northwest side of the Anderson University campus. There are currently 96 of the 148 acres developed. We have four free-standing mausoleums, two with columbaria and a chapel mausoleum with columbaria. The cemetery also contains two and a half miles of paved roads.

There is a second cemetery three blocks due west called appropriately "West Maplewood Cemetery." This cemetery is approximately 35 acres in size and was established in 1863. In 1907 the families of West Maplewood approached and petitioned the Board of Directors of Maplewood Cemetery to take over all responsibility of West and thus became a part of Maplewood Cemetery Corporation. Maplewood Cemetery Corporation is a not-for-profit organization governed by a 15 member Board of Directors and a cemetery General Manager. Our front office is staffed with an Officer

Manager/Salesperson, clerk/salesperson and bookkeeper. The grounds crew consists of six permanent employees, including myself and up to six seasonal employees at our high point.

The cemetery averages around 300 burials a year and we do all of our opening and closings and about a third of the setups. We do all of our own mowing, trimming, foundations, spraying, and minor tree work and all vehicle/equipment maintenance and repairs.

I've established working group leaders for the mowers, trimmers, ground repair, foundations and burials. Their responsibility is job assignment within their group, routine equipment maintenance and records and inventories. If workers need shifted between groups, then I coordinate with the group leaders and, depending on the task at hand, a total group can be reassigned or the group leader being the only one left working within his area of responsibility.

Each morning a job list is generated and work orders assigned. The work orders have been useful for both the office and us. The work orders are sorted and distributed to the various group leaders to complete the requested task and return for further processing and follow-up. We used to have customer complaint slips and, once issued, they received very little follow-up. Now, with an emphasis on placed on customer relations and quality they are returned, charted and reviewed. After five years in this process, it is easy to recognize our problem areas, study the problem, identify the causes and then build a control plan. The really nice thing about this is that we recognize and see the results and so do our customers. How do I know? They tell us.

765-642-3714

## New ICA Member Services

On behalf of your association's website committee I would like to announce the development of our Indiana Cemetery Associations' official website! Website designers have been identified and the committee has been preparing a scope of work for final development. We would encourage you to contact any of the website committee members for your input. The intent is to create a useful tool for our members as well as provide valuable information to our potential customers.

Educating the public so they will be able to make meaningful decisions will be one of many objectives with the development of the ICA website. This will be achieved by posting articles, newsletters and links to other informative sites. Most importantly, will be the usefulness of our members' section of the website. Members will have instant access to:

- Legislative issues
- Members' directory
- ICA Mission Statement
- Vendor links
- State Board Codes
- Meeting dates
- Current & forecast weather conditions
- ICA by-laws
- Resource Directory table of contents

- Indiana State Statutes
- State Forms
- Convention dates

*Please feel free to contact any of the website committee members with items of interest you would find valuable on our ICA website.*

John Dick - john@maplewoodcemetery.com  
John Gerlach - jgerlach@verizon.net  
Brad Kraft - Brad.Kraft@sci-us.com  
Paul Vogel - pvogel@calumetparkcemetery.com

# FYI

Congratulations to Henry Drux and Kenneth Costin for being appointed to the State Board of Funeral and Cemetery Service for a term of four years.

Remember to mark your calendar for September 28, 29 and 30, 2006 for the annual convention which will held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Indianapolis. Look for more information in the Spring issue of "Viewpoint."



#### ATTENTION SUPPLIERS!

Contact Casey Miller at 260-462-8555 if you are interested in advertising in the "Viewpoint" on an annual basis. The Board has established a discounted rate for those who wish to advertise regularly.