**Death - Funnies**

**Insurance policies always exclude “acts of God.” What do they think dying is -- a recreational pastime? (The American Legion magazine)**

**Dying is a very dull, dreary affair, and my advice to you is to have nothing to do with it. (Somerset Maugham)**

**Gloria: “Let's go antiquing this weekend, Lance.” Lance: “Doesn't being around all those old, decaying things remind you of death, Gloria?” Gloria: “Actually, it reminds me of your house.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Eat well, stay fit, die anyway. (Tidbits of Denver)**

**“Assisted dying” is the new term for mercy killing. And nursing homes are now called “assisted living.” If you can’t pay your assisted living bills, we have another assisted program more in your price range, Mr. Shapiro. *(Daniel Liebert)***

**On April 7, 1891, American showman P. T. Barnum died in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Though he was gravely ill, the 81-year-old showman’s sense of humor hadn’t deserted him. He requested that a New York paper run his obituary before he died so he could enjoy reading it, and the paper obliged. (MOMENTS IN TIME – The History Channel)**

**First man: “Do you believe in life after death?” Second man: “Heck no. Believing in life before death is hard enough.” (Jeff MacNelly, in Shoe comic strip)**

**An elderly Brooklyn woman told her friend she wanted to be cremated when she died and her ashes scattered over Bloomingdale's. “Why Bloomingdale's? her friend asked. “So I'll know my daughter will visit me twice a week.” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**The miserly millionaire called a family conference. “I'm placing a box of money in the attic,” he said. “When I die, I intend to grab it on my way up to heaven. See to it that no one touches it until it's my time to go.” The family respected his wishes. After his death the millionaire's wife looked in the attic. The box was still there. “The fool!” she said. “I told him he should have put it in the basement.” (Gene Jennings, in Reader's Digest)**

**Rather than be buried or cremated, I think I would like to be bronzed sitting in my Jacuzzi, spouting hot water all over the city. I hope the law allows it. (Liz Carpenter)**

**A UCLA medical school official has been charged with making money off of cadavers. They were selling body parts of cadavers that were donated to the university. So after you die you can go to heaven, hell or e-Bay. (Jay Leno)**

**Some sad news -- legendary Senator Strom Thurmond has passed away at 100. The cause of death: He was 100! (Jay Leno)**

**He was a very cautious man, who never romped or played. He never smoked, he never drank, nor even kissed a maid. And when he up and passed away, insurance was denied. For since he hadn't ever lived, they claimed he never died. (The Pepper Box)**

**A young man, walking home late one night, decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery. Suddenly, he fell into a newly dug grave. Several minutes later a drunk strolled through the cemetery and heard a voice calling from below, “I'm freezing down here.” He walked over to the fresh pit, peered over the edge and said, “No wonder. You kicked all your dirt off.” *(Debbie P. Wright, in Reader's Digest)***

**The actual death certificate of a certain Missouri man reads: “Went to bed feeling fine, but woke up feeling dead.” (Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)**

**One says to another who is placing flowers on a grave at the cemetery: “Do I hear chimes?” Second one: “They buried him with his cell phone.” (Brant Parker & Johnny Hart, in Wizard of ID comic strip)**

**Grandma: “You ever watch that John Edward guy on TV who helps people talk to their dead relatives?” Other woman: “Uh huh.” Grandma: “I wonder if he could help contact my first husband.” Other woman: “I thought Earl was your first husband.” As they observe Earl sleeping in the chair, Grandma responds: “He is.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**The easiest job in the world has to be coroner. Surgery on dead people. What's the worst thing that could happen? If everything went wrong, maybe you'd get a pulse. (Dennis Miller, in Reader's Digest)**

**At Time magazine's 75th anniversary party, Dr. Kevorkian waited around so he could talk with Kevin Costner. Reportedly, Costner told him, “Hey, The Postman was bad, but not that bad.” (Conan O'Brien)**

**Telemarketer: “Is Ruby Moon there?” Woman: "Who wants to know?” Telemarketer: “This is the A-1 Credit Company, and...”  Woman: “Ms. Moon died.”  Telemarketer:  “Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. We were going to increase her credit limit.” Woman: “Wait a minute, I think I see signs of life.” (*Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Did you hear about the crossword puzzle addict who died? He was buried six feet down and three feet across. (Good Clean Jokes - Harvest House)**

**The recently widowed lady with a new diamond ring explained how she got it: “He left $1,000 for a casket and $5,000 for a stone. This is the stone." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A husband and wife went to the doctor. The husband is hard of hearing. The doctor says to the wife, “You’ve got to do three things to keep your husband well. First, you’ve got to keep everything real clean and smooth. You got to iron everything. Second, you’ve got to fix him fresh meals every day from scratch. No leftovers, no fast or frozen foods. Third, you’ve got to give him more loving.” They get home and the husband asks, “Well what did the doctor say?” The wife looks at him and responds, “You’re going to die.” *(Tidbits)***

**Paul Harvey tells an amusing story about some airline baggage handlers who retrieved an animal carrier from the luggage bay of an airliner. As they removed the carrier, they made a gruesome discovery: the dog inside was dead. The baggage handlers panicked. They thought there might be lawsuits, and they might even lose their jobs. They told the woman passenger that her dog had been sent to another destination by mistake. It was not at all uncommon for baggage to be sent to the wrong city. They promised her they would find her dog and have it delivered to her. With that assurance, the woman went home. The baggage handlers then buried the woman's pet. Afterward, they set out to find another dog to replace the animal that had died. Finally, they found a dog that was a dead ringer for this woman's pet. They put the substitute dog in the animal carrier and sent it to the woman's address. The woman took one look at the dog and exclaimed, “That's not my dog! My dog is dead,” she told them. “I was bringing it home for burial.” *(Paul Harvey, in For What It's Worth)***

**After our dog died, my parents had her cremated, and they placed the ashes in a special box on the fireplace mantel. One day the boy next door came over to play and noticed the fancy container. “What in the box?” he asked. “That’s our dog,” my mom replied. “Oh,” the boy simply said. A minute later he remarked, “He’s awfully quiet, isn’t he?” *(John Ference, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Nelson: “Grampa, have you ever had any other dogs besides Roscoe?” Grandpa: “Oh, heck, yes, let’s see. There was Shep and Boots and Cleo and Patches and Chewey and . . .” Nelson: “What happened to ‘em? All of ‘em?” Grandpa: “They died. Yup.” Nelson whispers into Roscoe’s ear: “I’d keep my eyes open if I were you, boy.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Some people, though dead, can still be very entertaining. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Billy says to Jeffy: “If one of our fishes dies we hafta pick which way to go – burial or flushing.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**When my granddaughter was 5, she visited her great-grandparents in Clearwater, Florida. One day they took her to the beach, and on the way they saw some flamingos. “April,” said her great-grandmother, “I bet you’ve never seen a live flamingo before.” “No,” April said, “and I’ve never seen a dead one, either.” (Lydia Matriciano, in Reminisce magazine)**

**A woman was trying to get her mother to fly out for a visit. “No way am I getting on an airplane,” her mother said repeatedly. “Look, Mom, when it’s your time to go, it doesn’t matter if you’re on the ground or in the air.” “That doesn’t bother me,” her mother said. “I just don’t want to be that far off the ground when it’s the pilot’s time to go.” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Nurse Hathaway: “Why are you under the sheet?” Patient: “Because I’ve been dead for the past two days.” Nurse Hathaway: “But you’re still suffering from persistent headaches?” Patient: “Oh boy, am I ever.” Nurse Hathaway: “And what brought on these headaches?” Patient: “Death.” *(ER)***

**“If I sold my house, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?” I asked the children in my Sunday School class. “No!" the children all answered. “If I cleaned the church every day and mowed the yard, would that get me into Heaven?” Again, the answer was, “No!” “Well, then, if I were kind to animals, gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?” Again, they all answered, “No!” “Well,” I continued, “then how can I get into Heaven?” A 5-year-old boy shouted out, “YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!” (Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)**

**Original inscription on a North Carolina grave read: “As I am now, so must you be. / Prepare for death and follow me.” Somebody added: “To follow you I’m not content. / How do I know / Which way you went?” (L. M. Boyd)**

**A certain court jester went too far one day and insulted his king. The king became so infuriated he sentenced the jester to be executed. His court asked the king to have mercy on this man who had served him well for so many years. After a time, the king relented only enough to give the jester his choice as to how he would like to die. “If it’s all the same to you, my Lord,” the jester replied, “I’d like to die of old age.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**It’s funny the way most people love the dead. Once you’re dead, you’re made for life. (Jimi Hendrix)**

**When will the mathematician die? When his number is up. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**The woman hurried home from her doctor's appointment, devastated by the medical report she had just received. When her husband came in from work, she told him, “Darling, the doctor said I have only 12 more hours to live. So I've decided we should go to bed and make passionate love throughout the night. How does that sound, dearest?” “Hey, that's fine for you,” replied the husband. “You don't have to get up in the morning!” (Lucille Selsor, in Reader's Digest)**

**In the Columbus, Indiana, newsletter of Creak, Inc.: “Three members have died since paying their dues, so I refunded their money because they would not be able to attend any meetings in 1993.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**It's impossible to experience one's death objectively and still carry a tune. (Woody Allen)**

**A 92-year-old woman, nearing death, awoke suddenly. “We have to change our teaching!” she declared. “There isn't supposed to be pain in heaven!” “Mother,” replied her daughter, “you're not in heaven yet, you're still here with us on earth.” “Oh,” said the woman, relieved. “It's all right then.” *(Forum Letter, in Catholic Digest)***

**An elderly woman, who had never married, died. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she made very clear that she did not want male pallbearers. She wrote, “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive; I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**One of the things you learn when you become a parent is the horrible thought that your children will be your children for the rest of your life. That's why there's death. *(Bill Cosby)***

**An impassioned minister was visiting a country church and began his address with a stirring reminder: “Everybody in this parish is going to die.” The evangelist was discomfited to notice a man in the front pew who was smiling broadly. “Why are you so amused?” he asked. “I’m not in this parish,” replied the man. “I’m just visiting my sister for the weekend.” *(Roger Delahunty)***

**I recall a man who had a nagging wife who was constantly scolding him on every occasion. When she passed away and they had the services at the graveside, there came a strange phenomenon. There was a great rolling peal of thunder and the jagged bolt of lightning in the sky. The bereaved husband contemplated this phenomenon for a moment, and finally turned to the minister and said, “Parson, I think she made it.”
(Senator Everett Dirksen, in Quote magazine)**

**For three days after death hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls taper off. (Johnny Carson)**

**My friend’s four-year-old daughter spotted some old photos on my piano. “Who’s that?” she asked, pointing to one of my grandmother. “That’s my dad’s mother,” I told her, explaining that the photo was taken a long time ago and that my grandmother is now dead. The girl looked puzzled and said, “Then why is she smiling?” *(Misty McElroy, in Reader’s Digest)***

**If no one knows when a person is going to die, how can we say he died prematurely? *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 110)***

**“I’m concerned about this prescription, Dr. Jones,” the woman said. “I thought you said I’d have to take it for the rest of my life.” “That’s true,” Dr. Jones said. “What’s the problem?” “It’s for 20 pills,” the patient said. “And it says, ‘No refills.’” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Good week for: Last laughs, after Frederic J. Baur of Cincinnati, the deceased designer of the Pringles potato chip can, had his cremated remains buried in one of his tubular inventions. *(The Week magazine, June 13, 2008)***

**Doctor: “What seems to be the problem, Mr. Purvis.” Mr. Purvis: “Nothing.” Doctor: “Nothing.” Mr. Purvis: “No, when I woke up this morning, nothing hurt.” Doctor: “Then why are you here?” Mr. Purvis: “Am I dead?” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**I bought my sons a pet rabbit after they promised they would take care of it. As expected, I ended up with the responsibility. Exasperated one evening, I said, “How many times do you think that rabbit would have died if I hadn’t looked after it?” “Once,” my 12-year-old son replied. *(L. Barry Parsons, in Reader’s Digest)***

**I’m always relieved when someone delivers a eulogy and I realize I’m listening to it. *(George Carlin)***

**My last request: In my obituary, do not print a 50-year-old picture of me -- my friends won't recognize me. And don't print a picture of me smiling because it will look like I'm happy to be dead. (Kerley, in S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)**

**Just after my retirement from 45 years of teaching, I decided to do some subbing for a local school. During one of my classes, I asked the children if they would be willing to die for a friend. “For example,” I asked, “would any of you be willing to die for me?” “That wouldn't be fair,” a young voice piped up. “You're going to die in a few years anyway.” (Rose Long, in Catholic Digest)**

**When I was young the Dead Sea was still alive. *(George Burns)***

**A father was at the beach with his children when the 4-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand and led him to the shore, where a sea gull lay dead in the sand. “Daddy, what happened to him?” the boy asked. “He died and went to heaven,” the father replied. The boy thought a moment, then said, “Did God throw him back down?” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**I think we're finally at a point where we've learned to see death with a sense of humor. I have to. When you're my age, it's as if you're a car. First a tire blows, and you get that fixed. Then a headlight goes, and you get that fixed. And then one day, you drive into a shop, and the man says, “Sorry, Miss, they don't have this make anymore.” *(Katharine Hepburn)***

**Overheard: “When I die, I want to go peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather – not screaming like the passengers in his car.” (Robert Marks, in Reader’s Digest)**

**A woman in Florida is having trouble convincing the Social Security Administration that she’s still alive. When Josephine Miskowitz, 78, stopped getting her monthly benefit checks, she went straight to the Social Security office, where a worker informed her, “You’re deceased.” Miskowitz presented photo ID and filled in a form attesting to her pre-deceased status, but three months of checks have still not arrived. “If they keep this up,” said Miskowitz, “I will be dead in a couple of months.” (The Week magazine, June 17, 2005)**

**A very melancholy man who was always up on the latest accident and death statistics once cornered Mark Twain. “Mr. Clemens, do you realize that every time I breathe, an immortal soul passes into eternity?” “Have you ever tried cloves?” asked Twain. (Bits & Pieces)**

**One day a telemarketer called a number and asked for Mr. Morgan. The woman who answered said he no longer lived there, but she had a number where he could be reached. The telemarketer thanked the woman, called the number and was greeted with, “Good morning, Highland View Cemetery.” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**The trouble with death is that it doesn't fit with anything else in my plans. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**A woman picked through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but she couldn't find one large enough to feed her family. “Do these turkeys get any bigger?” she asked a stock boy. “No, ma'am,” he replied. “They're dead.” (The American Legion magazine)**

**An attorney I know once drafted wills for an elderly husband and wife who had been somewhat apprehensive about discussing death. When they arrived to sign the documents, he ushered the couple into his office. “Now,” he said to them, “which one of you wants to go first?” *(Robert W. Cunningham, in Reader's Digest)***

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