**Death - Trivia**

**In their rituals to mourn the dead, the ancients painted their bodies black long before their eventual descendents wore black clothing. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Man is the only species that buries its dead. (L. M. Boyd)**

**For the record, it takes Madame Butterfly 4 minutes 48 seconds to die. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Ancient Egyptians so respected their pet cats that they mummified them, then entombed them with mummified mice so they'd have something to eat in the thereafter. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Ever had contact with the dead? One survey purports to prove 40 percent of the people in America believe they have. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Some 1,200 people who had stopped flying after 9/11 died in car crashes in the year after the terrorist attacks, according to a Cornell University study. (Forbes, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 13, 2005)**

**An armored truck in Archdale, N. C., ran off a highway and overturned, killing a security guard, who was crushed when more than $1 million fell on him. *(Bill Flick)***

**Some primitive New Guinea tribes – to embalm their dead – simply smoke the remains. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Ten of the hairs on your head will stop growing today, if yours is a typical head. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Alexander the Great was not the only human interred in a crock of honey. Ancient Egyptians routinely buried many of their dead that way. (L. M. Boyd)**

**How come Orthodox Jews won’t use metal caskets for burial? Anything that prevents integration of the body with the soil is prohibited. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It’s an old tradition in Korea that a woman is not permitted to hold the hand of a dying man. (L. M. Boyd)**

**On the death of my mother, I found a friend's thought apt and consoling: “You can't weep for people who have left more in life than they have taken out.” (John J. McAleer, in Reader's Digest)**

**General Gaishi Nagaoka, known as the father of Japan's first air force, sported a mustache 22 inches long. When he died in 1933, the mustache, too, was buried with full honors. Beside him. In a separate coffin. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Movie publicists in the 1930s put pet obituaries in newspapers on behalf of film stars, wherein said stars bid gentle goodbyes to dead dogs, cats, canaries, whatever. Made a pretty good impression, advertising some movies and activating another business: pet cemeteries. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**That countless pioneers died along the old Oregon Trail is known. But not often is it reported that most of them were buried in accordance with a custom of the journey – heads pointing west. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It is a matter of record that one rattlesnake's heart continued to beat 59 hours after its head was chopped off. (L. M. Boyd)**

**When a person is dying, hearing is the last sense to go. Sight is the first. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 299)***

**The peak time of day for deaths is reported to be about 6 a.m. Medical statisticians say they’re trying to link that fact with sleep disorders, but are not sure they can. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Nobody knows where the body of Voltaire is. It was stolen from its tomb in the nineteenth century and has never been recovered. The theft was discovered in 1864, when the tomb was opened and found empty. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 124)**

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