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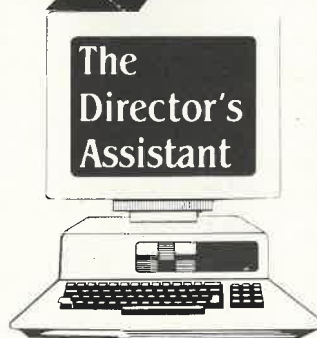
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# Turning the Clock Back 25 Years

*Conventions dominated the news in our edition of October, 1961. The National Funeral Directors Association was about to convene in Minneapolis, where professional cars would occupy much of the exhibit space. The Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards also was about to meet. The Massachusetts FDA elected new officers at the New England States Funeral Directors' Exhibit, and the New Jersey and Connecticut Associations met. And there was much news of new construction and expansion.*

PROBLEMS besetting funeral service were to be examined, discussed and, so far as possible, dealt with at the 80th annual convention of the National Funeral Directors Association, scheduled for Oct. 22-26 at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis. These included the perceived threat posed by memorial society programs and a barrage of criticism aimed at funeral service by several influential magazines. The convention format was described as "a carefully tailored presentation that covers matters of national concern to all members of the profession, as well as specific management areas that are important to funeral directors in the management of their business affairs."

Featured speakers were to include Dr. Edgar N. Jackson, clergyman and authority on grief, and Walter Cronkite, nationally-known broadcast journalist. Presiding at all sessions would be Thomas Glidden of Des Moines, Iowa, NFDA president. All exhibit space was sold out, with more than 100 firms participating.

AN EXTREMELY wide variety of professional cars was listed in our annual automotive section. The Miller-Meteor Division of Divco-Wayne Corp. offered 10 distinct body designs and 35 basic models, all on Cadillac chassis. The S&S Victoria hearse by Hess & Eisenhardt embodied the "crisply articulate styling" stressed by designer Willard C. Hess. The Cotner-Bevington line included hearses, limousines, ambulances and combination models using Oldsmobile chassis. All would be shown at Minneapolis.

THERESA B. WILKINS of the U.S. Office of Education was to be a key speaker at the convention of the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Oct. 20-21 in Minneapolis. Her topic: "The Federal Government and Accreditation." John Metzler, superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, was to discuss the national cemetery program and procedures for military funerals. Melvin D. Hilgenfeld of the California College of Mortuary Science was to moderate a panel on legislative action.

FIFTY firms exhibited at the New England States Funeral Directors' Exhibit, held at the New Ocean

House, Swampscott, Mass., Sept. 17-19, 1961. Richard W. Holmes, president of the Massachusetts FDA, conducted the program. Philip J. Schoen III, NFDA treasurer, was a featured speaker. William J. Gormley of West Roxbury was elected president of the Massachusetts Association, succeeding Mr. Holmes.

MEMBERS of the New Jersey State FDA, meeting in convention at Atlantic City, Sept. 12-15, 1961, elected George R. Dancy of Caldwell as president, succeeding Brar V. Riewarts of Bergenfield. In his annual report, Silvio T. Failla, secretary, reported a total membership of 599, an increase of 23.

WILLIAM F. MURPHY of Waterbury was elected president of the Connecticut FDA, succeeding Howard L. Holmes of Manchester.

BECAUSE an insufficient number of state associations accepted his offer to transfer ownership of the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science to their control, Dr. L.W. Hosford withdrew his offer. The institution was to continue under the supervision of Dale Sly and Claude Grim. Favorable consideration to Dr. Hosford's proposition had been given by the funeral director associations of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Oregon, but it had been rejected by the California, Nevada, Utah, Washington and Wyoming associations.

J. SHERIDAN MAYER of the American Academy of Funeral Service, New York City, published the fourth edition of his textbook, *Restorative Art*. Drawing upon his then-22 years of experience and research, Mr. Mayer presented an extensive guide to the theory and practice of restorative art. The book embodied the course content material recommended by the National Association of Colleges of Mortuary Sciences, as well as a wealth of practical information, our report said.

A LENGTHY article described the Notbohm Funeral Home, Oconomowoc, Wis., which had celebrated its 85th anniversary in October of 1960 by opening a new mortuary. With a year of occupancy completed, the one-story building, capable of handling four visitations at the same time, had lived up to expectations.

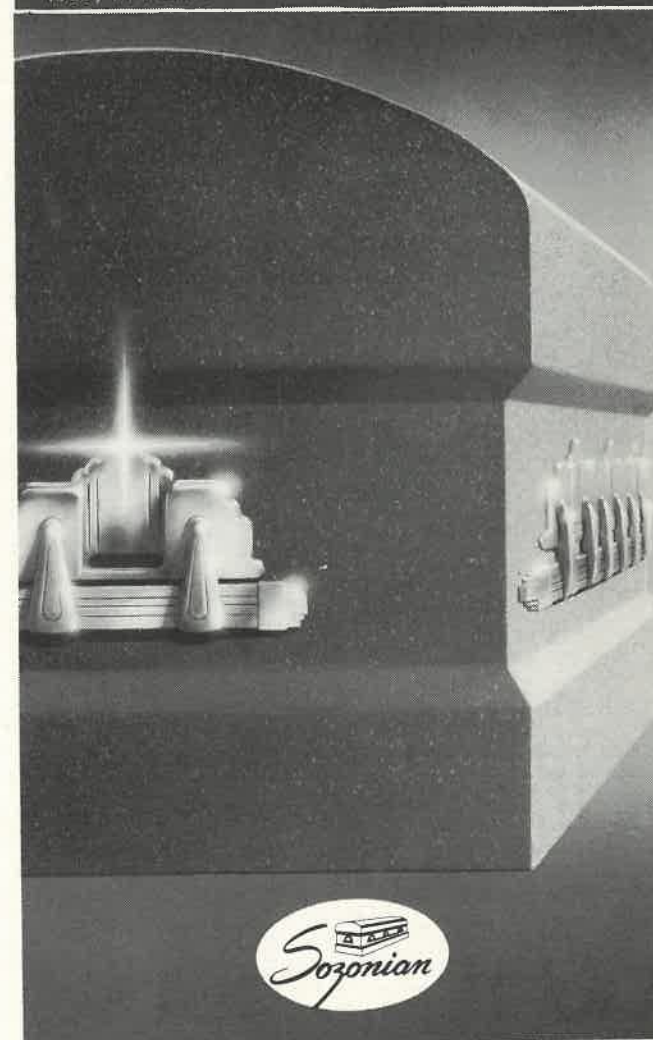
THIS COLUMN, "Turning the Clock Back 25 Years," reported that the New Jersey FDA voted to secede from NFDA during its 35th annual convention, held Sept. 15-18, 1936, at Atlantic City. The secessionists condemned the alleged "horse-and-buggy leadership" of NFDA, and said that the \$2,000 contributed in annual dues could be used more effectively within their state. A hurricane trapped the members in their hotel in the last day of the convention, an appropriate end to a very stormy meeting.

IN PETALUMA, Cal., the Parent Funeral Chapel was incorporated. The 10,000 shares of stock had an

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