


The background of the slide features a dense pattern of green leaves in various shades and textures, overlaid with a light blue and white wavy pattern that resembles water ripples. The text is centered within a semi-transparent white rounded rectangle.

Flora- & Fauna- Friendly Funerals


By
Mary Alessi


What Happens When We Die?


 *“Our customs require the presentation of our dead in the semblance of normality ... unmarred by the ravages of illness, disease or mutilation”*

- Mr. J. Sheridan Mayer, mortician

The American Funeral



 Families used to prepare the bodies of loved ones for burial by themselves

 Buried their loved ones in a way that would invite the elements to take their natural course...

The American Funeral

- The Civil War eventually caused more deaths than families knew what to do with.
- So the *business of undertaking* was quickly *undertaken* by some clever *businessmen...*

The background of the slide is a collage of US dollar bills, including \$100, \$50, and \$20 bills, scattered across the frame. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of green leaves and a blue wavy pattern at the bottom left corner.

Average Funeral Now Costs:

\$7,000 - \$15,000

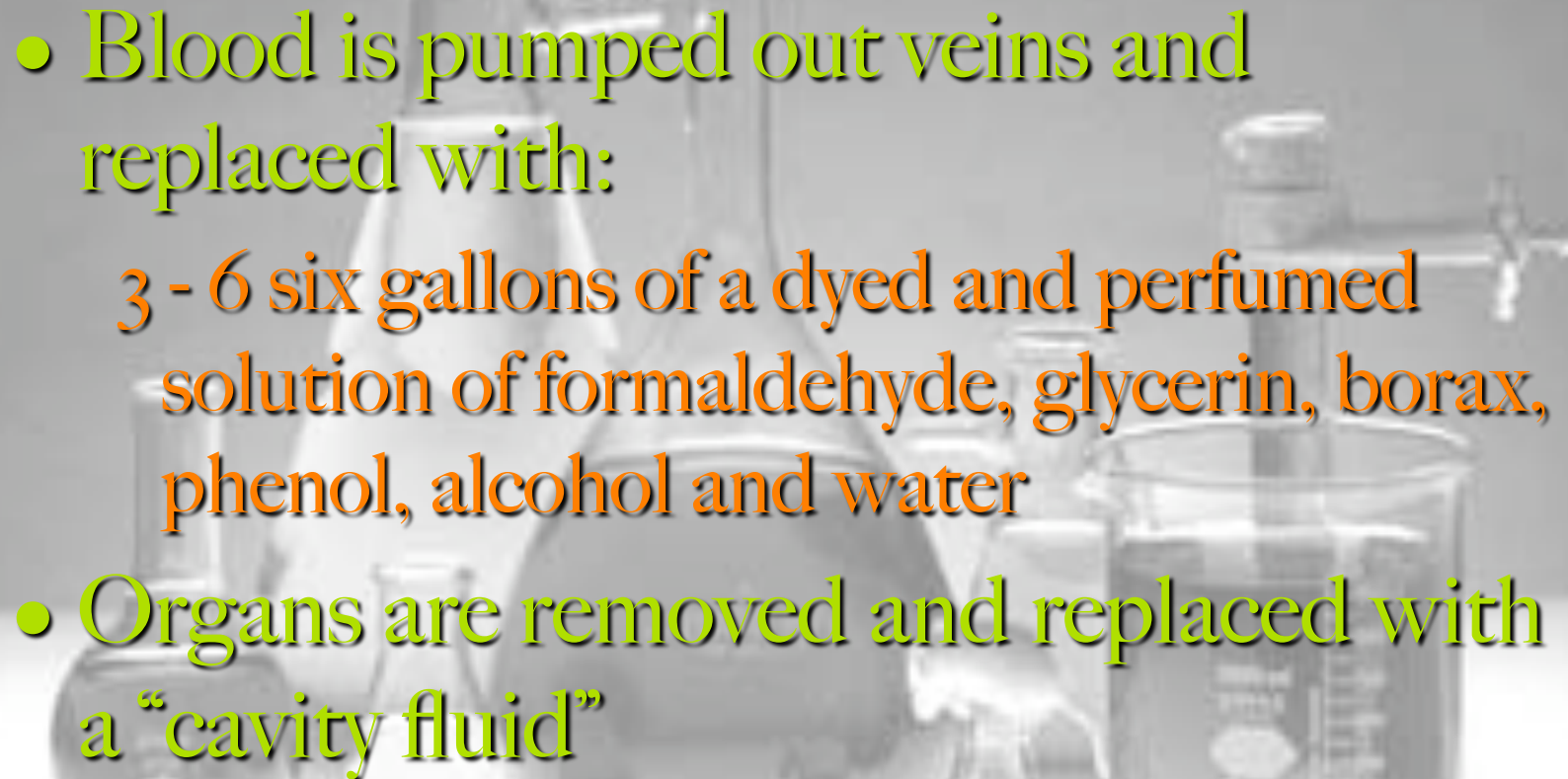
Expense\$: Embalming

\$800





Embalming

- Blood is pumped out veins and replaced with:
 - 3 - 6 six gallons of a dyed and perfumed solution of formaldehyde, glycerin, borax, phenol, alcohol and water
 - Organs are removed and replaced with a “cavity fluid”
- 



Expenses: Makeup

\$1000

Makeup

✿ Teeth are cleaned and coated with clear nail polish

✿ Mouths are set into place with straight pins or a needle and thread

Makeup

✿ Eyes are closed with flesh-tinted eye caps and eye cement

✿ Limbs can be replaced with plaster casts if need.

... if **NEEDED?**

Expenses: Wooden Coffins

\$2,000



Expenses: Metal Caskets

\$10,000





Expenses: Vaults

\$400

Vaults

	Bronze Triune	Bronze lined, sealed, warranty	3000 lbs.
	Copper Triune	Copper lined, sealed, warranty	3000 lbs.
	Cameo Rose	Steel lined, sealed, warranty	3000 lbs.
	SST Triune	Steel lined, sealed, warranty	3000 lbs.



Expenses

- Plots:
\$1,000

- Headstones:
\$500 -
\$1,000

Expenses

 Viewing:

\$400

 Other Fees:

\$100



Other Problems ...

In just **10** acres of cemetery,
we bury enough
wood, steel and concrete
to build **40** houses



Every Year In America, We Bury...

Enough embalming fluid and
toxic chemicals ...

(to keep the cemeteries looking park-like)

... to fill **8** Olympic-sized
swimming pools !



In One Year We Bury...

**More metal than what was
used to build the golden
gate bridge!**



A map of the United States with a thick, dark grey line tracing a route from New York City in the east to Detroit in the west. The map is light grey with black outlines for state boundaries. On the left side of the map, there is a vertical decorative strip with green leaves at the top and blue water ripples at the bottom.

In One Year We Bury...

**Enough reinforced concrete
to build a 2-lane highway
from NY to Detroit!**



Alternatives: Home Burials

- Home burials are still allowed in the vast majority of states
- Embalming is almost never required by law, so there is no real need to call a funeral director

Alternatives: Home Burial

- ✿ A body can be laid out on dry ice for up to a week
- ✿ A family member can fill out and file the death certificate in lieu of the funeral director
- ✿ Someone from the medical profession must be present to pronounce time of death

State of West Virginia



Death Certificate

I, BRENDA WISEMAN, Clerk

County and State aforesaid, it being an office of record, and having

Dolbear Valley

in Randolph County and State of West Virginia, on the 6th

Sex Male Date of Birth Age:

Name of Disease or Cause of Death Unknown

Alternatives: Cremation



✿ Costs:

\$500 -

\$700



Alternatives: Green Burials

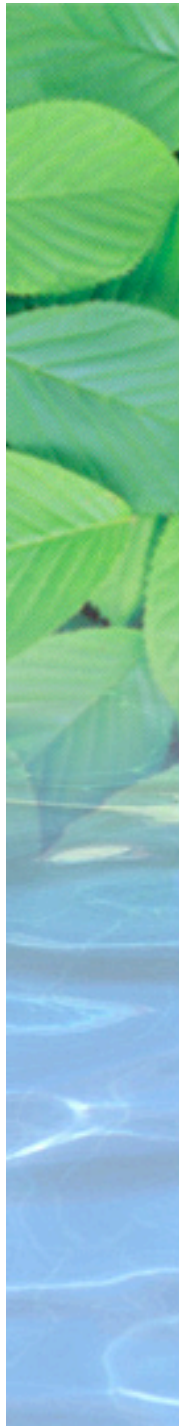
 Lets nature take natural course

 Way to preserve land & native
wildlife

Alternatives: Memorial Reefs

- * Place keepsakes of loved ones in concrete sphere
- * Spheres become part of existing reef structure and new habitat for fish







**THE
END**

07 30 2002

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA