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Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Thurs, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Fri.
(Closed 2-4:30 p.m.) Saturday 5-9:30 p.m.



Just the Facts
Will not be
published Wednesday for the
Fourth of July holiday.
Publication will resume
Thursday.

Go Fast! Turn left To the American Legion

Come celebrate the arrival of NASCAR to Illinois with the Legion Bartenders.

Friday, July 6 5-8 p.m.

BBQ, chips, dip, potato salad & munchies. Lots of prizes!

\$1 16 oz. Drafts of Michelob, Bud & Busch lite, \$1.25 16 oz. Draft of Hooch Lemonade, \$1.50 Margaritas.

DJ at 8 featuring 3CT Productions of Rantoul

Vickie **Ruth** **Carol** **Cathy** **Ryan** **Steve**

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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www.justthefacts.tm

Former resident pens book on postmortem collectibles

When Charles Miller was a boy, he and his grandmother often walked from her home to Floral Hill Cemetery where they would tend to family members' graves. There they would cut blades of stray grass from around headstones and wipe the dust from the grave markers.

After taking care of those chores, the young Miller was allowed to take off his shoes and socks and dip his feet into the pond at the cemetery, at least until he started kicking and splashing. When that started, his grandmother would gather up the tools of their task and the pair would begin the walk home.

Those early experiences, along with an early desire "to be an undertaker" and an interest in forensic science led the former Hoopeston resident to pen his eighth book, *Postmortem Collectibles*.

Published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., of Atglen, Penn., the book details not only how dealing with death changed between the late 1800s and the 1960s but also how some people's fascination with dying has turned into a market for collectors.

Postmortem Collectibles covers many topics, including caskets, vaults, items pertaining to the embalming procedure, cremation chambers, monuments, hearses,

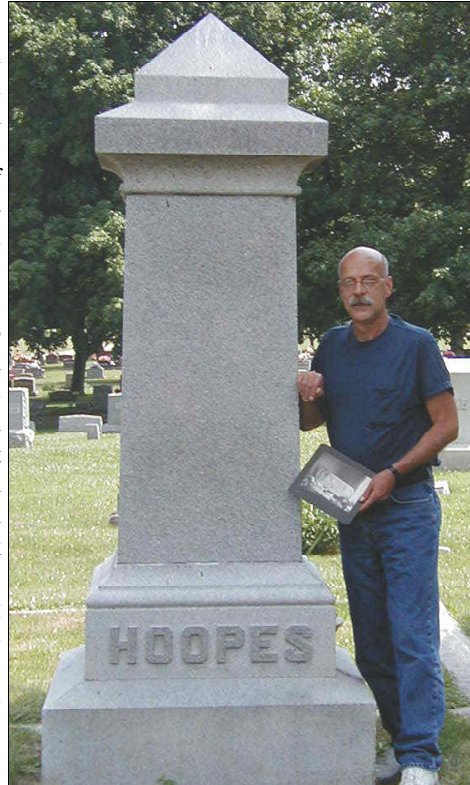


Photo by Lourdine Florek
Charles Miller stands next to the Thomas Hoopes monument at Floral Hill Cemetery and displays a postmortem photograph. The monument is displayed in Miller's new book, *Postmortem Collectibles*.

funeral homes, burial garments, floral arrangements and postmortem photographs.

The photographs, most taken by professional photographers, show the deceased, often lying in a home, surrounded by flowers. Photographing a deceased person "was very popular during the turn of the century," Miller said. "It's a way of remembering a loved one."

Photographing the dead was not from a sense of morbidity but instead was a way of keeping far-away relatives informed. Pictures were sent to friends and family unable to attend funeral services. The practice also provided closure for the living. "With a child's photograph, it's often the only thing you had left," Miller said.

Postmortem Collectibles contains more than 330 photographs in its 160 pages. Many of the items pictured are in Miller's collection, which includes about 1,100 postmortem photographs.

With each photograph he receives, Miller painstakingly creates a written description. He places the photograph against a ruler and, inch by inch, writes down every-

thing he sees in it, from the wallpaper in the background to the kind of clothing the deceased is wearing.

New additions to his collection are found in antique

See POSTMORTEM on other side

Ideas for the 4th

Red white & blue star-shaped balloons, stars & stripes ribbon bows, Beanie Babies & Attic Treasures, flowering hanging baskets.

Last day to save 20% on door & wall pieces

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days



Hubbard Trail No tacos July 4th.

Serving 5-9 every Friday
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An Old Fashioned 4th of July

Wednesday, July 4 McFerren Park
Featuring:

Hoopeston Lions Club: Food Stand

Hoopeston Rotary: Ice Cream

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce: bicycle/wagon/scooter parade

Girl Scouts: face painting

Hoopeston Jaycees: pet parade, water balloon toss, watermelon eating contest, dunk tank



Hoopeston Lions Club Food Stand

At McFerren Park
Will be serving BBQ, fish, corn
dogs, fries & drinks from
11 a.m.-8 p.m. July 4

Tacos

Served Tuesday instead of Wednesday

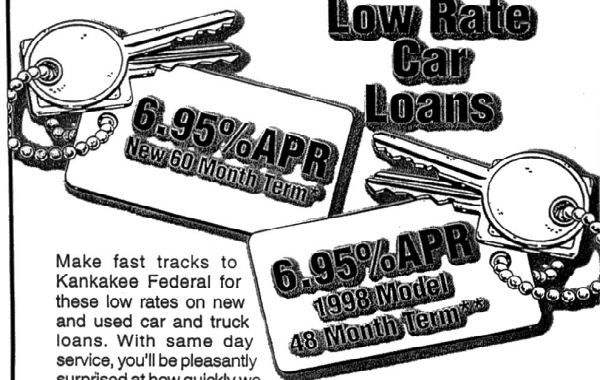
After tacos, listen to

"The Banned" at the Rossville Legion

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Postmortem continued from other side

shops along with more modern methods of shopping, such as eBay.

Prices for postmortem photographs vary greatly. Miller's collection includes some picked up for \$5, while for others, he paid \$1,200. "The more rare and ornate they are, the costlier they are," he said.

The postmortem collection is another in a long line of Miller's interests, all involving history. Several of his interests have appeared in his other books. He has written three on the Jewel Tea Company of Chicago, one on the Rawleigh Company of Freeport, another on dime-store collectibles and one on kitchen, garden and housewares collectibles. His seventh book was a revision of the sold-out dimestore collectibles book.

Although *Postmortem Collectibles* is his most recent effort, the idea is something Miller wanted to see put in print for some time. "It took me eight years to talk my publisher into letting me do it," he said. "Of all eight, this is my baby."

Police News



A **key ring** and keys was found Monday in the 200 block of East Main. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 11:49 p.m. Sunday to a report of smoke in the fourth floor hallway at Centennial Manor, 426 E. Honeywell. The smoke was caused by a resident cooking something. No injuries were reported.

Pla-Mor Lanes FALL LEAGUES FORMING



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The only requirement is to have fun!

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As with all his books, Miller ties Hoopeston to the written page. Three of the photos in the book were taken at Floral Hill Cemetery. "I always try to bring home into all my books, he said.

A copy of *Postmortem Collectibles* is available at the Hoopeston Public Library. It is also available on line from the publisher at www.schifferbooks.com

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital June 28

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Juanita Peterson.

June 29

Admitted: Dean Walter, James Means, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Gladys Ingold, Gene Sheagley.

June 30

Admitted: Bruce Holmes, Rankin; Glenn Maul, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Bruce Holmes, Maurice Leigh.

June 30

Nothing to report.

Weather



Mostly cloudy, chance of showers and thunderstorms today and tonight. High 82, low 60. Tomorrow, chance of showers early. High 80, low 58. Thursday, partly sunny. High 80, low 60.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

**We have red, white, blue &
every color you need!
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Wolfe Funeral Home

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Hoopeston, IL.
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Hubbard Trail presents

"Covers"

Saturday, July 7 8 p.m.-midnight
\$3 single, \$5 couple
(217) 748-6521 1397 N 3680 E Rd., Rossville

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brianna's Baby Shop open Tuesday only. Clothing, toys, Lincoln Candles.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Lincoln Candles. Rich fragrances without black smoke. Many sizes. In Global Fashions.

Small truck topper. \$75 OBO. Also, exercise stepper, \$35 OBO. Call (217) 283-6383 after 5 p.m.

RUMMAGE SALES

Backyard sale, 705 S. Fourth St., Hoopeston. Friday & Saturday, July 6,7, 8-1. Furniture, truck tool box, dishes, home interior, Southwest, chickens & clothes.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4 2000 WJ, 4.0L, Everglade, 26F, UpCountry (includes wider tires, skid plate group, matching spare, upgraded suspension), Selec-trac (4x4), trac-Lok For more information, see www.eyrich.net/jeep

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.