

About 1989

(I attended)

Remembering the first funeral services, in the earlier days at the Compere Baptist Church. After the service, a wagon and team carried the body to the cemetery with Ed Breeze walking beside the team to hold the horses head. Horses were very nervous. Everyone walked behind the wagon to the cemetery.

Jones Co TX

At that time bodies were prepared for burial at the home by neighbors and bought the coffins at different places. At that time Star Hardware at Trent sold coffins. (According to Anson records.) In still earlier days, coffins were made by the neighbors or family. Few people today have bodies at their home until funeral services. As late as the 1950's this was done and some services held in the home. After starting to use funeral homes to prepare bodies and hold services, friends and neighbors still dug the graves and sat at the funeral homes around the clock. Many times Vernon and usually Ross would go the funeral home in the middle of the night to sit their turn.

Today funeral homes give or sell package deals for the funeral; clothes, coffins, sitting, digging graves, and wagons.

With fewer people in the country and people working away from the farms, there were not enough neighbors to preform these task or works of love. One of the last graves the neighbors dug at Compere, there were only three or four men to dig in the rocky cemetery and as they crawled out of the grave after finishing, the funeral procession was rounding the corner south of the cemetery. Had it not been for Clyde Foster coming by delivering butane and stopping to help it would not have been finished in time. After that experience, we let

Noodle know we needed help and they were there, for the next one. ^{Leta Dixon suggestion.} One 10 year old came with Dad from Noodle, after finishing the grave, the boys pitched ~~him~~ in the grave, Vernon said much scrambling to get out. Vernon said when he died to spend the \$100 to have his grave dug.

Contributed by
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