

COMING BACK

He was 27 when he died. That was five years ago. When I came into work, I was greeted by a large coffin and a smiling doctor informing me that we were gonna have fun tonight.

Clearly the Doctors idea of a fun night was not the same as mine.

The story goes that this man died some five years ago in a very small town in the middle of nowhere. At the time, for some reason, he was simply buried without any autopsy or investigation. It wasn't until after the funeral that it was learned that he had been involved in a drug deal and had paid the full price.

Now, after all these years, the case is going to go to court, but they will need the bullet and autopsy report if they plan to get anything done. In homicide cases, the autopsy report is very important in determining the events and circumstances surrounding a death.

Well needless to say, after the man had been buried for five years, I was somewhat hesitant when I opened the coffin. I didn't think that there would be much left for us to work with.

Much to my surprise, the man looked as if he had died very recently. It was a case of the funeral home doing a great job of embalming. I found myself thinking how pre-occupied we have gotten with 'preserving' ourselves that we've even gotten to where we can keep ourselves looking somewhat fresh and un-decade for years after we have died.

It seems kinda silly that we will live for about 70 years, but they are now to a point where they can preserve our bodies well over 100 years. I guess they call that progress.

We got all the information that they would need in court, including the bullet and we put the young man back in his coffin, ready to go back to wherever it was that he came from.

It was a different kind of case. I certainly learned a lot.

I wonder if they'll have another service for the guy when they bury him again?

There's always something unexpected when you work at the morgue, that's for sure.