

FOREWORD

It takes a lot of nerve to write one's autobiography. This is especially true if one has not achieved great heights such as President, Senator, Chief Executive of a major enterprise, etc. However, I did have the opportunity to influence the path of some organizations with which I came to be associated.

So, as I view many other individuals it seems to me that my life and its times are unique enough that someone in the future might find some interest or even inspiration from them.

Growing up during the Great Depression I was not aware of ambitions for more than a routine existence. High school was an almost complete disaster. The first stirrings of the life I could lead came from meeting Lou, joining the Army and discovering that there was more to me than I had imagined. I tell about these things in *The Early Years*, *The Teen Years* and *Twenty-one Plus*.

In *Action in Northern Europe* I discovered more about myself as I was given the responsibility of command of an artillery battery in pursuing the defeated German armies across Europe.

The war over, Lou and I faced the reality of maintaining our small family (Lou, Dick and me). The GI Bill helped (actually, my subsequent life would have been impossible with it) but further income was necessary. Education and these necessities are the main subject of *Getting On With Life* and *MS to PhD*.

In retrospect, I find the story in *Professional Life Starts* to be astonishing. Two years out of my PhD I was asked to head a large mathematics department and I accepted. But this led to my helping to change the course of the department. The department's professors promoted a department better than the powers-that-be wanted. Many colleagues were involved. Colleague Merrill E. Shanks took an action which brought our goal to the larger math community. I was pleased by Meyer Jerison writing to me: "if you had not been there and done what you did then I fear we would have had a different history."

In *From Here To . . .* as Chair of the Educational Policy Committee I led the Purdue University Senate to change the Academic Calendar so that the first semester ended before Christmas. In this immediate post-sputnik era, I also introduced computing into the Calculus program.

In *My Life on the Road*, working with Purdue North Central Campus colleagues Bob Schwartz, Bill Back and Ed Bednar, I helped to change the path of that campus with the report *Viability to Vitality*.

In *Other Adventures*, I was able to participate in a program to change the direction of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra. Notable personalities involved were Paul Van Cleef, Purdues Dean Robert Ringel and Lafayettes Mayor Jim Riehle.

Most other Chapters are just what the claim to be.

A major difficulty in writing one's history, especially many years after the fact, is chronology. The events that I have reported in the following pages happened; it may be that their order was slightly different than that recorded. I have not invented any of these events.

Therefore, I will put down what I remember of my life and hope it will find accommodation in some repository.

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