

Prologue

The motivation to write this autobiography came in two different forces. The first force was from my three children: Charlotte, Beth, and Les. Their entire lives have been filled with me telling them stories about my experiences, ranging from my early childhood until the present time. The second force was my own self-interest in recalling the events that had spanned my lifetime. This lifetime spanned a period from when I recall seeing horse-drawn wagons delivering ice on the streets of Orlando up to the present time when a rocket delivered men to the moon and everyone has a personal computer and a cell phone. As Tom Brokaw wrote in his book, it was the era of the “Greatest Generation”.

In writing this autobiography, I have attempted to organize it into phases of my life, rather than time periods. Since many of these phrases overlap, there will be many instances of where you will read of the same event. This is inevitable since the same events overlap in different phases of my life. This occurs more frequently in the middle periods of my life, rather than at the beginning and at the end. This is only natural, since the middle part of one's life is the most active.

It was never my intent to record anything in this autobiography that was not as I perceived it to be. If there are any untruths in this writing, it is because of my perception, rather than any effort to make things appear different than what they really were. There also may be slight differences in details of the same events in different phases of the story. These can be attributed to the frailties of memory of someone more than 85 years old attempting to recall events of almost that many years ago. I have not included many experiences and events in my life. As I spent time recalling the past, I edited out those times I considered unpleasant or irrelevant to this book.

This autobiography is available to any and all who want to learn more about me and my life and the times and events that shaped it.