

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE

Too Many “Ah-ha” Moments and Still Counting

By Vince Corozine

When life handed me a lemon, not only did I make lemonade...but I bought the whole orchard and later sold it for a profit!

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE is a look at contemporary culture. It chronicles the quirky individuals whom I meet on my daily walking excursions, the odd events that I experienced in my travels around the world, my experiences in the U.S. Army, avoiding bad situations, and during my years obtaining an education.

The account has no plot, no rising action, no conflict, or even climax. Ah, but it has characters.

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE is the life force, which gives their world its heartbeat. As soon as I became aware of the Mallbusters, I found myself speculating about these individuals. My assumptions, biases, and conclusions are unequivocally derived from my opinion, my conjecture, and my imagination. My perspective and life experiences as a husband, father, grandfather, musician, composer, and friend give me the insight and the hindsight, the worldliness and naivete' to appreciate the unexpected and question the unpredicted, in my cosmic world of life.

My excursion takes me from the “crazies” at the mall, to the “crazies” in my travel throughout the world, my experiences in the U.S. Army, and of course, my many years of obtaining an education.

“Globe-Trotting” Counter-Clockwise, takes the reader on a journey around the globe., where amazing things happened and where I was able to avoid disasters. The time I was almost arrested in Rome; another time when I gave an incorrect answer at the airport in Toronto and was detained for two hours, and the overall chaos that was so prevalent in Egypt.

“Uncle Sam Needs You! Who Me?: explores the numerous situations that I got into that were at first unpleasant, but later turned around for my benefit. One such event was when the officers thought I was an expert in Morse Code; and how my ability to do over 150 push-ups aided me in getting home every weekend to play in my jazz quartet.

“School Daze” takes a humorous look at what happened in school from elementary school through my teaching at three universities. When I tried out for the St. Louis professional baseball team, the disaster of my first two public appearances and a look at some of the odd-ball teachers I encountered.

One might say that this is a mini-inspirational book. It can inspire individuals with a God-given talent, who find themselves in an entirely foreign situation and not welcomed into, to persevere by using and creating opportunities for themselves.

It appears that regardless of the roadblocks set before me, I was able to use my humor and creativity to still be a musician. What appears at first reading is a bad experience, I had the uncanny ability to turn a negative situation into a positive one. When doors closed for me, I went through another door or I went through the window. Making the best of a very mundane situation takes courage and ingenuity. I learned to face the music even when I didn't like the tune.

INTRODUCTION

When life handed me a lemon, not only did I make lemonade, but I bought the whole orchard and later sold it for a profit!

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE is a narrative nonfiction book that presents a "tongue-in-cheek" look at contemporary culture. Observations about people that I meet at the mall during my daily walk, my travel experiences, time spent in the US Army, and my days obtaining an education.

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE is a probing look at how times have changed, values have been compressed, and why people do such strange things...like wearing a ball cap backward on one's head.

ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE also observes the outlandish behavior of individuals at the local mall in *MALLBUSTERS*; in the areas of travel: *GLOBE-TROTTING COUNTERCLOCKWISE*; my experiences in the United States Army: *UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU! WHO Me?*, and the situations occurring while I was in getting an education: *SCHOOL DAZE*.

After spending a good deal of time at the mall observing all types of people, I concluded that the "crazies" (those who react to life differently than I..the psychologically maladjusted with quirky idiosyncrasies) all walk in a clockwise direction, while I walk counter-clockwise.

I wish to clarify their quirky habits as I meet each of these "crazies." After all, racehorses rapidly speed away in a counter-clockwise direction, as do NASCAR drivers and Olympic runners. Even the North Atlantic current flows in a counter-clockwise direction. Research reveals the planets in our solar system revolve around the sun in a counter-clockwise motion, and the sun rotates in a counter-clockwise motion as well. Electric motors, car tires, hurricanes and tornados, and CDs rotate this way too. Right-handed people (there are more righties than lefties) draw a circle using a counter-clockwise motion. Why--- the water in my bathtub revolves counter-clockwise when draining. I want my life to be coordinated with the earth and my bathtub. Don't you?

ANOTHER PUBLIC APPEARANCE

As student president of the Jr. High School (ninth grade), I was asked by the faculty to present a short speech at graduation. My topic was "How to Be Successful in High School." I was seated next to Mr. Donnelly, the Principal, and other administrators and teachers. In front of me was a lectern holding a microphone. Next to the lectern, was a gray table with 225 diplomas neatly rolled up, piled high, with a dark blue ribbon around each.

When it was my time to speak, I was introduced and accompanied by the applause of the audience. I walked toward the microphone. (Remember that teenagers are not the most graceful people and awkwardness often displays itself as it did that evening.) I accidentally bumped into the table on my way to the microphone and all 225 diplomas rolled off the table into the orchestra pit below. Embarrassed? I was mortified. My second public appearance was even worse than the Catholic school talent show. At that moment I felt that life is soup, and I am a fork!