

CHAPTER TWENTY

The Last Chapter



Roger, Sr. at recent Club Meeting

It is September 2009. Every day is a new day and a remarkable adventure. We are in very interesting times at present. Gold is reaching new highs every month. The world is supposed to come to an end soon, but I do not believe it.

My Eighty-two years have been during the greatest period of inventions, the great depression, World War II and ***“The Great Years”*** as remembered in this book.

I do not know what the future holds for me. I don't think anyone knows beyond today. I hope to be around ten more years to surpass the record established by my Grandfather, Will Smith. I want to see the predictions about computers and technology come true.

**Roger deWardt Lane
Hollywood, Florida**

“ If General Motors goes bust, SO GOES THE COUNTRY!”

About the time I was in High School, my main interest was radio. I always thought, I might get a job in the radio field. So, when I understood a little about the stock market, I would watch the price of RCA stock. At the time, we were just coming out of the depression which had forced both my Father and my Grandparents to lose all their investments. The family instruction to me passed down was, *“Don’t trust the stock market.”*

Skip forward about twenty years. I was now in the hotel business, Comptroller of the Kenilworth Hotel, Bal Harbour earning \$600 a month. We had bought our first home with a mortgage in North Miami for \$10,400. I drove a new Chevrolet automobile after trading in my first car, the 1947 Dodge purchased with my army money made by selling my whiskey ration in Germany.

Somewhere, I got the idea to buy some stock. I liked AT&T; so, I went down the street to the Bache & Co.- Brokerage Office next to the bank we used. I asked to buy one share of AT&T stock after I set up a brokerage account with them. The young lady broker said, “You shouldn’t do that as the commission will be too high. You should buy some other good company, with a lower stock price.” AT&T was about \$200 per share at the time. I ended up telling her to buy for me 5 shares of GM at 42 ¼ or about \$211 plus \$6 commission. **There was a saying at that time, “If GM goes bust, so goes the country.”**



My First 5 shares of GM stock

ISSUED BY OUR BRANCH OFFICE AT
 9578 HARDING AVE. SURFSIDE 41, FLORIDA

BACHE & Co.
 Founded 1879

MEMBERS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AND OTHER
 LEADING STOCK AND COMMODITY EXCHANGES

36 WALL ST. NEW YORK 5, N. Y.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WE HAVE THIS DAY
 MADE THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTION FOR YOUR ACCOUNT SUB-
 JECT TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE HEREOF

YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER	T Y P E	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE		AMOUNT	INTEREST OF STATE TAX	COMMISSION	FEDERAL TAX	POSTAGE AND FEE	NET AMOUNT
				A	B						
39010111	B	5	GENERAL MOTORS CORP	12	424	21125	6	600			21731

ALL CHECKS, INSTRUCTIONS, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT TO THE
 OFFICE SERVICING YOUR ACCOUNT.

TYPE OF ACCOUNT:
 1 - CASH 4 - SPEC. MISC.
 2 - MARGIN 5 - WHEN ISSUED
 3 - SHORT ACCT. 6 - SPEC. CASH

MR ROGER D LANE
 1520 N E 142ND ST
 NORTH MIAMI FLA

TRADE DATE
 5/15/56
 SETTLEMENT DATE
 5/21/56

39 01011 19

WHEN REFERRING TO THIS OR OTHER
 TRANSACTIONS BE SURE TO MEN-
 TION YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER WHICH
 APPEARS ABOVE.

Bache & Co. - Order

Skip to today. My 5 shares of GM grew to over 66 shares by reinvesting dividends for over 50 years. In June 2008 when I received my last Dividend Notice of \$16.57 the market value of my shares was about \$1130. This had come down from a high a few years earlier of \$8,000. The last notice I received was dated November 13, 2008, advising that the Dividend Reinvestment Plan had been terminated. Today, GM has gone bankrupt, the Government owns most of the company and my stock has no value. My two 5 Share Stock Certificates as collectables might bring \$10 each. But, I enjoyed reading the Annual Reports for fifty years and the beautiful color pictures of each year's new cars. Fifteen years ago when I bought my first Toyota Camry, I should have known, something was wrong in Detroit.

I hate to quote the old saying again - ***"If General Motors goes bust, SO GOES THE COUNTRY!" "God saves us all"***



Roger Sr. and Marilyn with 1952 Chevrolet

Fifty Eight Great Years with Marilyn

Marilyn joined Roger Jr. in Heaven on September 28, 2009. She had been less active for about nine months, as her illness progressed. The Doctor told me on April 1, she had an incurable case of Liver Cancer. Early July, I started taking close care of her. She was in her home of fifty years, right to the end, except the final week when she transferred to the hospital. I gave her the best personal home care anyone could get, sleeping on the couch in the living room right outside her room. Up every two hours to make sure she was comfortable. Andria flew home from Maui, Hawaii and was with her the last three weeks. Andria had two good weeks, taking care of her with me and was able to spend hours sitting with her and giving her *smoothies* which Marilyn enjoyed and would say, "*It's like Heaven*".

The final three month period, she was having home care from an agency - VITAS (hospices). The Nurse would visit each week or more frequently if required. The nurses aid would bath her and change her bedding, also each week and eventually twice a week. I got pretty good with the washing machine, so everything was always clean. The Doctor came to the home each month. They have a visiting Chaplain who would call quite often and came by once when Marilyn decided to have him visit her. As she was deaf, he wrote out the Lord's Prayer for her using a dry board. This was comforting to her.

As the time drew near, Andria & I would visit every day at the hospital. The people there were most kind and she was without pain at all times. The last visit, Saturday, we came in the late afternoon. Andria about 6 PM decided she would like a Chaplain to come by. A very fine lady Deacon of the Episcopal Church arrived about 7 PM. She read scriptures and we all said the Lord's Prayer together. She offered to anoint Marilyn with Holy Oil, which had been consecrated by the Bishop at the Trinity Cathedral where we had been married 58 years ago. As the Deacon placed the Christian Cross on her forehead, Marilyn opened her eyes for the last time in our presence. This was our last time together and the last chapter of our fifty eight *Great Years* together. ***May God Rest Her Soul.***

Marilyn Watson Lane, July 31, 1928 - September 28, 2009



Marilyn Watson Lane

“Is This All There Is? Then Lets Keep On Dancing”

This is part of Peggy Lee’s famous parting song. I was a great fan of Peggy Lee and never missed a show when she performed at the *Classic Diplomat Hotel - Cafe Crystal Night Club*.

These little stories cover the brief period of the last two-months, without Marilyn and with Andria and my friends. Andria and I got the word on Monday. Not wishing to be alone, we called two very close friends to come over for pizza and a bottle of Manischewitz blackberry wine. Andria ordered vegetarian pizza from *Big Louie’s* delivered. Stan Klein and Steve Schor came over. Andria had already started to clear out some of the ‘collections’ in the living room by moving all of Marilyn’s dolls from the living room to around the Christmas tree in the Florida Room. We four had a jolly time and killed the bottle of wine. It’s better to be happy than sad on occasions like this. Marilyn in spirit was with us. Plans were made to have more friends over the following day.

I called most of my friends from the Hollywood Coin Club. The Officers and the workers with their spouses all agreed to join us on Tuesday. In all about thirty friends show up. Steve came over early and Andria, Steve and I went to Publix. While Steve found some rye bread and bagels, I was at the deli getting Boar’s Head roast beef, Boar’s Head provolone cheese and sliced turkey. I picked up ten more bottles of kosher wine, paper plates, plastic cups and napkins.

When we called the friends, I told my Jewish friends we were going to *sit Shiva* and to my Italian friends I said we were having an *Irish Wake!* Lou Kleinman and Owen Karr were the first to show up. Knowing that there might be lots of cars, and that the lady who owns the large house across the street was almost always away as she lives in Naples, I told Lou to park in her driveway and tell the other early arrivals to do it too.

Pretty soon there were lots of friends here. People brought pies, cakes and cookies. Steve brought a large bottle of California

wine. The ladies helped Andria and Steve put the food in platters on the dining room table. I was busy pouring wine and welcoming everyone. As the living room filled up with people, some overflowed into the Florida room.

I was standing in the middle of the living room, when I happened to look out the big picture front window and across the street. Just as I did that, I saw the lady over there, open her front door and look out to see where all the cars were coming from. She was home, so I rushed over with my apologies for having my friends use her driveway. She was most kind and understanding when I told her about the event. She said, "Please let them leave their cars here as I am in for the evening." I invited her to come over and have a glass of wine with us, but she declined.

Then, I saw my new next-door neighbor in the middle of the living room; someone had let him in, which of course was ok. He offered his condolences and I introduced him to Stan and got him a glass of wine. He had also seen all the activity and had asked one of the guests, what was happening. They told him that Roger had just lost his wife and they were *sitting Shiva*. He said, "I didn't know Roger was Jewish!" But he was told they are just his coin club friends.

Andria played a little music for the friends and told of Marilyn's interests, the dolls and the Christmas tree, which has been up for several years. She had the lights turned on. It was a nice evening and Ginger (our calico cat) enjoyed all the friends too.

Over the next few days we received many cards from the family and calls from Rogers Jr.'s two girls. Andria talks with Aunt Marge almost every night, late as she stays up very late too.

During the rest of the month, we had Steve over for dinner several times. Stan, Harvey, his wife Flo came by to visit and play music. Harvey is a fine musician; Steve turned out to have a great voice and knows many songs. Stan is tops with the guitar.

For Thanksgiving, Andria cooked a very nice vegetarian holiday dinner. On Wednesday, I stopped at Whole Foods and bought a cooked turkey breast, as Steve had been invited to join us. Andria called Stan too and the four of us enjoyed a nice dinner with music & wine. We had a real nice Thanksgiving with friends.

Andria, Steve and I started going to the SwapShop several times a week. On the third visit we had almost finished, and they wished to leave, however, I said, no. I wanted to do the very last row. As we turned the corner, there was a **Harp**, the first time anyone of us had ever seen a harp at the flea market.

Andria had lost her harp (I should say, someone stole it when it was being shipped over to Maui). We inquired as to the price, which started out at \$150. I told Andria all I had left in cash was \$50. So the dealer said he would take \$100. I nicked Steve to lend me the other fifty and Andria went home a very happy musician with a nice Irish Harp.

Since then, she has bought at the flea market, drums, harmonium, glockenspiel, chimes and microphone stand. These she added to her acoustic guitar, electric guitar and several other musical instruments. She found Roger Jr.'s bongo drums in the closet too. The living room is starting to look like a 'Music Museum.'

I bought myself an early Christmas present - A new Toshiba 18.4" Laptop computer running the new Windows 7 Home Premium. I also got a discount on the upgrade program to install on my HP Desktop computer - Windows 7 Professional. For weeks I have spent many hours installing all the programs on the two computers. I like Windows 7 very much, Microsoft has improved the operating system, by combining the best of XP and Vista, with a few new additions. The computers are fast and the screens are large too.

I joined the Palm Beach Coin Club and road up there with Steve to the meeting. One of their members was selling a few

foreign coins at the bourse before the meeting started. I found a Mexican 10 Centavos - dime size of 1875 which I was happy to add to my collection.

The two coin clubs have just had their holiday banquets. As usual I presided at the Gold Coast Coin Club Dinner at Orangebrook Country Club. There were 70 guests and a nice dinner & program shared with Mark Eshleman. The Officers installed; Roger - Treasurer, Herb - Secretary, Denis - President, Mark - V.P., Bill - V.P.



Hollywood Coin Club Officers - 2010



Our Table at the Fort Lauderdale Banquet

Seated at our table at the Ft.Lauderdale Coin Club Banquet on December 10th 2009, at the Bimini Boatyard Grill & Bar were Chuck, Ron & Leslie, Steve, Roger & Andria.

The Banquet was held for the third time at this location and well attended with 70 members and guests. His daughter Ashley again installed President Tom DeFina. Other Officers serving again for another year, included, Roger as Treasurer. Andria enjoyed seeing all the coin club members. Joe Marshall the club Bourse Chair is a great photographer. He took several special pictures of Andria.



Andria at the FLCC Banquet

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