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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

June 17, 2002



Found: A Good Read

Recently, our home celebrated Jean's birthday, my 45th anniversary of graduation from Annapolis, and our 45th wedding anniversary – all in a 10 day period. Because I am in daily contact with my Academy classmates, the game of “do you remember” has gone into full swing, a sure sign that we are growing old.

One recent class query was about the name of the rubber tube through which occupants of front and back seats of the N3N seaplanes communicated. The N3N was a biplane of 1935 vintage...the communication tube was just a tube (called a Gosport), and we checked the gas with a marked wooden stick! We felt like barnstormers as we became airborne at about 45 MPH.

The San Diego Business Journal recently gave my internet book on real estate a good review. My book is a cautionary tale, designed to provide some of my real estate experience to new agents.

I find that as many of my classmates grow older, we write memoirs of one form or another. My book on real estate is one such (specialized) memoir, and my soon-to-be-web-published book on the seizure of the Pueblo is another.

One of my classmates has provided the world an even better remembrance. Jean and I are inveterate B&B and Historic Inn travelers, and, like most people who frequent these establishments, we have mused about running a B&B or Inn. We

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have even spelled the owner of a special B&B in Sewanee, Tennessee during the Christmas period so she could have a vacation.

One of my Academy classmates, Dick Toner, retired as a Brigadier General in the Air Force, and has written a good book on running an Historic Inn. Dick and his wife bought and managed the Birchwood Historic Country Inn in Lenox, Massachusetts. After eight years, Dick sold the Inn and wrote a “good read” about his Innkeeper adventures.

The book is *The Loving Room*. I bought it on Amazon.com. Dick can flat write! He can turn a good phrase, is highly literate, and he was sufficiently prescient to have written copious letters which served him well in writing the book. The book has just the proper amount of pathos and humor...it is a great book even if you do not wish to manage a country inn. I hope Dick has another book or so in him. He is that good.

Meanwhile, I commend the writing of memoirs to you. Many people have had experiences worth remembering, even if you can't write as well as Dick Toner – neither can I, but that will not stop me from writing my books. I write them because only I can...and only you can write your life experiences. You owe it to your family generations that follow. The existence of computers and the Internet permit you to share your experiences with millions who follow.

Genealogy is a subject of interest to those of us who are celebrating too many birthdays and anniversaries, but many of us are dissatisfied with mere dates of the birth, weddings and deaths of our family. Many of us wonder how our forbearers lived, what they did, and what they liked. Their thoughts are mostly lost, but yours need not be lost.

The book I am doing on the seizure of the Pueblo has always been titled, “For the Record...” because it was never intended for broad publication. I had no illusions that it would be a commercial book but I knew that only I had many hours of tapes and hundreds of pages of notes, so only I could write the story.

Only Dick Toner could write his story, and only you can write your story.



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