

# **Did I Win or Not?**

**By Richard R. Grayson**

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**Something to file away**

I've been thinking.

I have been in competition with myself all my life and now at the age of 82 I can't do much. Upon reflection, I recall that I was proud of these accomplishments and you can read them aloud at my funeral in a hundred years: I also want a New Orleans type band to play When the Saints Go Marching In. Get Louis Armstrong to sing. And play America by Ray Charles.

1. I spent more time on a roof than anyone else, tending ham antennas.
2. I could run up 8 flights of stairs, two at a time in my Fellowship.
3. I could leap over bushes.
4. I fought a 3 round boxing bout in college to a draw. I could have been killed because I was not told my opponent was a left hander.
5. I was editor in chief of my college newspaper, The Bachelor.
6. My Journalism professor, Dean Harvey remembered me when I showed up 40 years later at Wabash College.
7. I kept in touch with my high school journalism teacher, Miss Florence I Otis till she died. She was the best of all my teachers.
8. I graduated youngest, age 22, in my medical school class except for Mario Mansueto.
9. I was always youngest in school, now I'm the oldest doctor on the hospital staff.

10. I practiced falling while running, like a football star.
11. I could do a running summersault over 3 guys kneeling on the floor.
12. I once bench pressed 190 pounds.
13. I beat Gary Hestilow 12 straight racquetball games.
14. I beat Danny every time in racquetball till the age of 68, then quit when I lost a game.
15. I confirmed 304 countries and islands when a long distance radio amateur.
16. I sired 4 of the best children in the entire world.
17. I've had two of the best wives in the entire world.
18. Once I had 20 patients in Perryville Memorial Hospital at one time.
19. Once the administrator of that hospital chewed me out for having too many poor patients who didn't pay.
20. Every morning I look in the obituaries and think, I beat those by another day.
21. I was the first one in Perryville to have seat belts.
22. I discovered a new disease.
23. I collected books.
24. We once had 5,000 books in the house.
25. We had a Hooked on Books program for the kids.
26. I think I partly own America because I found ancestors who not only came here on the Mayflower, but also others who built and owned the ship.
27. I was a member of not only the US Navy the also the US Air Force.
28. I'm half Jewish and I don't ever see any anti-Semitism.
29. I learned a lot of Judaism teaching Synagogue Sunday School for 5 years.

30. I taught everybody how to remember the Ten Commandments, also known as the Ten Prescriptions, forward and backward.
31. Sometimes I look into the Bible or the Talmud for answers to questions.
32. Once I was president of a Lutheran Congregation.
33. I have decided never to run for president of the United States. I'll just watch.
34. I was responsible for banning smoking in Delnor hospital and at St. Marks Lutheran Church.
35. Once I led the fire department to the place in St Charles where a factory was illegally burning trash and producing huge black smoke plumes over my town. They never did that again.
36. I have belonged to the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs. And Toastmasters.
37. I saved the air traffic controllers of the US from their illegal sickout by testifying in federal court in 1971 that they were really stressed out and sick.
38. During this business I reported the FBI wiretaps on my phone to the FBI. I thought that was hilarious when the agent told me he was not allowed to investigate.
39. I started the American Academy of Stress Disorders, now defunct, and met my role models, Doctors Morris Fishbein, Louis Alvarez, Jules Masserman, and Hans Selye.
40. I brag to everyone that I have 15 grandchildren and some of them are going to win a Nobel Prize.
41. June and I once owned 57 acres of woods and a cabin on Lake 30 in Wisconsin.
42. I found that God lives there. You can hear Him whisper in the trees at night.

43. We planted 5,000 Scotch pine trees in the bare spots on the land and helped the planet.
44. I bought my first computer at the age of 61, and we now have 6 computers, 8 printers, and 2 scanners.
45. I fool everyone into thinking I know all about computers.
46. I did genealogy since I was 15. The oldest ancestor I found was born in 1105, a.d.
47. My two favorites are great grandfathers. Andrew Jackson Grayson was a writer and fought with the Indiana 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Shiloh. I think I was AJG in my last life. The other great grandfather was Ephraim Hambujer who had 33 patents and 11 children. The 11<sup>th</sup> child was Grandmother Stella Mandelbaum.
48. I was good at hypnosis. I stopped morning sickness in a woman and made Al Taylor think he was going to be run over by a train. The guy I cured of alcoholism was last seen leaving town, drunk.
49. I found that fame and glory aren't worth anything unless it makes you money.
50. Even money isn't worth much, but what is worth something is a good essay because it might last and somebody might read it.