Part 10

Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr., Generation 2

Most of what I know about my father, Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr., I have described in detail within my personal chronicles. I have also received and included certain information from family members that knew about him. The bits and pieces I have personally gleaned about my Dad are from my perspective growing up having very little direct time spent with him and virtually no in-depth or meaningful conversations with him later on in life.

He appeared to me to live in the proverbial "here and now" medium with decidedly little interest or commentary about the future and considerably less about the past. Talking about the past appeared to make Dad uncomfortable for many reasons that over time became obvious. Dad's choices in life appeared to be driven by an earlier acquired



Vaughn P. Adams, Sr., 1931

force, perhaps fostered by a motherless family, that left a hollow void he seemingly would try to fill with his desires of life but would never capture, retain or allow to grow and develop. Much like Merle Haggard's "*I'm always on the mountain when I fall*", Dad's mountain tops were frequent, sharply pointed and never seemed to accommodate sufficient room for him to spread out, build upon, and continue to enjoy the good life that he was most capable of reaching. I'm convinced he believed he was just not capable of sustaining the good life for any meaningful length of time. Perhaps he suffered from a lack of confidence in himself or a false belief that he did not deserve the good life because of early failings. Perhaps the nature of his hard-sell direct sales work in products he truly did not believe in fostered this attitude. Alcohol had a firm grip upon Dad for all of the years I remember, and most likely, had a strong influence in shaping how he would cope with both his failures and successes.

Dad, however, in retrospect obliquely taught me, and undoubtedly others, much about life. He, by example, demonstrated through embellishing the contrasts, that life could be lived to be honest, solid, endearing and good. Where he had little interest in the roots of family, we sought after family roots with great thirst. Where Dad constantly moved about... possibly running from mistakes or associates, other family members he touched consequentially yearned to be settled and fixed. Where he would quickly drop his troubled work and move away to start over, we sought to slowly build upward from a strong base and foundation. I owe Dad for this perspective, and I am convinced I would not have otherwise held these values as meaningful or worthwhile.

The hollow void Dad was not able to fill until late in his years was ultimately filled with the only One that could fill his emptiness. Dad accepted the Lord about two years before his death on 06 June 1986 through the Ministry of the Pat Robertson 700 Club. I trust that he is now at peace with the Lord.

I desire not to be disrespectful to my father in what I write. I pass these words on not to be critical of him, but rather more so, to those faithful around my father and his family early on who may have known of their spiritual condition but did not lovingly embrace and encourage him toward the love of God. I have been deeply shown not only the peace and power that is available through the Holy Spirit, but the adverse consequences of not having Him in one's life. On the other hand, I readily confess that all remains within the providence of the Lord's divine will and only time will bear witness to the end result.

I loved my Dad very much and truly regret not possessing the interest or capability of conducting meaningful conversations about life. I truly miss him today. This chapter touches upon the life of Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr. and is intentionally short and brief. Most of the details of his life are included in Part 11, Vaughn Paul Adams, Jr., Generation 1, wherein I can recall and reflect my own memories of my father and not have to rely upon only documents or the reflections and recall of others.

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Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr. Birth Affidavit 08 January 1912



Vaughn Paul Adams (Sr.) c. 1913

The above photograph was received from Ronald and Dorothy Glasser, Clarks, Nebraska on 23 July, 2012. They found the picture from a trove of old photographs they found. The caption on the photograph back reads..."Vaughn Adams (Floyd Adams' boy)".

Below are some additional facts during the year 1909:

THE YEAR 1909

This is for my children and grandchildren: <u>1909 FORD Model R</u>



The year is 1909. One hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1909 :

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Paris' Eiffel Tower

The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.

Ninety percent of all doctors had NO *COLLEGE EDUCATION!* Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which Were condemned in the press AND the government as 'substandard'.

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used

Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from

Entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death were:

- 1. Pneumonia and influenza
 - 2. Tuberculosis
 - 3. Diarrhea
 - 4. Heart disease
 - 5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.!

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

Author Unknown, 2010

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William Floyd Adams Family Moon Township, Monaca Heights, Beaver County, Pennsylvania 1930 Federal Census

The above 1930 Federal Census shows the William Floyd Adams, Sr. family living on Marshall Road in Monaca Heights. Vaughn (Sr.) was eighteen years old. Other children shown in the household were William, Harold Walker, Ruth Walker, Robert, Alta and Jean (Tunney). Chloe Mae Stevens (Walker) Adams is shown as Wife to William Floyd Adams, Sr.

Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr. was born 08 Jan 1912 as the second son to William Floyd Adams, Sr. and Ella Nora Smith in Colona, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Colona is now part of Monaca, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. There is still today a Colona Road in Monaca. Vaughn's older brother, William Floyd, Jr., preceded him in death by four years, born 10 January 1908. His sister, Ruth E. Adams, was born on 28 October 1915. Their mother, Ella Nora died on 26 February 1916 when Baby Ruth was only four months old and Dad would have been four years old. I have no information as to who cared for the children during this critical time and prior to his marrying widow Chloe Mae Stevens (Walker) in 1920. Dad's silence concerning this period of his life may be reflective of just how deeply he was personally affected by this harsh period of his life.

Young Vaughn apparently would help young and attractive Margaret Sinkovitz carry water from a community well pump to their homes in Monaca Heights. They dated and Vaughn proposed to Margaret Violet Sinkovitz at a top stop on a Ferris wheel at Idora Park near Rochester. Vaughn and Margaret were married on 11 September 1933 in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Margaret was 19 (born 23 Jan 1914).

Daughter Alberta Lee was born on January 29, 1936 in Monaca, Pennsylvania. Vaughn Paul, Jr. was born on August 30, 1937 in Unionville, Beaver County, PA and Ronald William was born on April 26, 1945 in Youngstown, Ohio.

The bond between Vaughn Sr. and his brother William, who married Elizabeth Romisher, was strong and lasting. They generally lived together as families, even after marriage. They worked in sales together and socialized with one another throughout most of their lives.



Vaughn was a "Depression Child". His most impressionable influences were likely dark and economically deprived. He was likely motivated economically on what he could sell or influence rather than what he could in fact, perform. He had not graduated from high school and jobs were just not available. Vaughn learned to become a salesman; persuasive, convincing and relentless in closing a direct sale. As the original "closer" he would later send his sales staff out on "leads" and when they failed to close a deal after three or four attempts, he would then go out with his salesmen and demonstrate his skill by closing the sale; apparently an excellent sales teaching technique in high pressure sales work.

Vaughn, 1931, Age 19

His sales commodities were generally vacuum cleaners; Compact, Kirby and Electrolux, but included exercise equipment such as Electra cycle and other products not sold over

the counter but possessed a highly inflatable "esteem value" product with corresponding high sales price potential... and correspondingly high sales profit! Vaughn Sr. was a likable, engaging gentleman with a nice smile and a soft heart. He was generous when he could afford to and often when he could not. He apparently was not always able to distinguish between the two extremes.

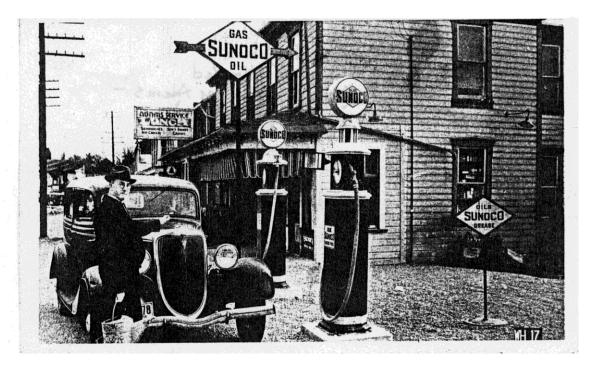
Vaughn Sr. was always a tailored and spiffy dresser. I remember his wearing of spats on his shoes, always a fresh and starched white shirt and tie and ordinarily donned a fedora... felt in the winter and a cream Panama Toquilla fiber during the summer. After his B&O brakeman railroad days, I never recalled him wearing work clothes again. Vaughn would arise in the morning get fully dressed with shirt and tie before he felt aptly fit to make his telephone business sales calls. He apparently believed that he did not have the required "edge" if he was not properly attired.



Margaret Violet Sinkovitz Adams, c. 1933

His wife, Margaret, was loving, caring and nurturing woman who had a strong work ethic and quite industrious. Growing up she always maintained a garden and would can green beans, corn, beets and other vegetables that we would eat during winter months. I always picture her doing something useful... mending, ironing, sewing to help maintain our abode, the children or the yard and garden.

Even in her later days after retiring from her jewelry business she was still restringing pearls for local jewelry stores, not because she needed the money, but because she wanted to keep busy and help others. Additional information about Margaret is found in Part 11.



The Adams Service Harry Adams is shown standing in front of his 1936 Oldsmobile. Getting gas

The Adams Service was a Sunoco Service Station, and Lunch owned by Vaughn and Bill's Uncle, Harry Thompson Adams. Uncle Harry offered his two nephews a job at the service station. According to Mary Elizabeth Adams, Harry's daughter who later married Wendell Holmes Burbick, the story was... that after a few days...Vaughn and brother, Bill... just left... and never returned! The guys were apparently not cut out for that kind of work!



Vaughn and Margaret prior to their wedding in 1933 Ref: Old photo album of Margaret's sister, Helen's son, Charles Jaros.



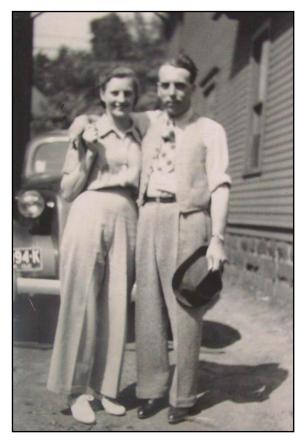
Vaughn, Margaret Violet Sinkovitz with sister, Helen Sinkovitz



Margaret Violet Adams, 1933



Dad, Mom and Bertie, 1936, PA



Mom and Dad, 1937, Ohio



Dad and Vaughn, Jr. (Sonny) 1938



Vaughn Sr., Youngstown, Ohio 1943



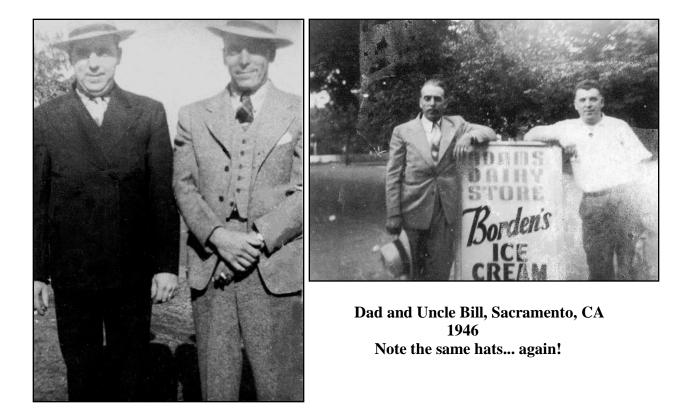


Dad, Uncle Bill, Mom, Aunt Betty Youngstown, Ohio, 1945

Vaughn Sr. and Margaret, 1944 Idora Park, PA



Vaughn P. Adams, Sr., Sacramento, California, 1946 Note Panama Toquilla fiber hat.



Bill and Dad, 1945, Sacramento, CA

Vaughn P. Adams, Sr. apparently could not make things work in Sacramento and our family sold the store and returned to Pennsylvania in 1947. We ended up moving to Warrendale, Pennsylvania about thirty minutes north of Pittsburg off Interstate 76. We saw very little of Dad in Warrendale...perhaps a few days in the 18 months we lived there on the Grennagle farm.

From Warrendale we moved to St. Charles, Illinois, and then in 1949 to Hampshire, Illinois where we lived for approximately two years. We saw dad more often here, however, he was absent most of the time. From Hampshire we moved for a summer to Cedar Lake, Indiana, then to the Calumet Region; Calumet City, Illinois wherein I graduated from the 8th grade. We then moved across the state line to Hammond, Indiana.

Dad and Mom divorced in 1954. Dad later remarried a sales lady, Mary Katherine Perry, and lived in Chesterton, Indiana and continued his vacuum cleaner sales work. Ultimately they moved to Santa Monica, California.



Mary, Vaughn, Jr., Dad, Santa Monica, California, 1983

Dad married Mary Katherine Perry in 1976 who had worked with Dad in Chicago. They moved to Santa Monica in 1980 and managed an apartment complex where they also lived. I would visit them on my business trips to Los Angeles where we would have dinner and light hearted conversations mostly about our present activities.

Dad is shown in only the 1920 and 1940 U.S. Federal Census which correctly shows his birth year as 1912. He is not shown in the 1930 Census when he was eighteen years old. Dad did indicate that both he and his brother, Bill, worked as *gandydancers* (non-union workers who worked for less wages) on the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad. There is no record as to whether or not their father, William Floyd worked for the Railroad during these troubled and depressed economic times.

Dad came down with systemic cancer in early 1986 and succumbed within a short time later. Dad passed away on 06 June 1986. Dad is at rest in Woodlawn Mausoleum, 10921 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, California. He was 74 years old.

Vaughn P. Adams, Sr. had changed his name to Robert P. Allen sometime in the 1970's for reasons never stated; only inferred. His Certification of Death incorrectly shows DOB: 08 January 1918 (actual 08 January 1912), Name: Robert P. Allen, (actual Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr.); Name of Father: William Allen (actual William Floyd Adams); Name of Mother: Dorothy Smith (actual Nora Ella Smith); Location of death: Westwood Country Convalescent Hospital, 12121 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, California. I have not sought to have the Certification of death or cemetery records added to or otherwise corrected.



Artwork of Vaughn P. Adams, Sr.

The above picture frame is the only artifact I possess that Dad created. The frame was made from expired Camel cigarette packages during a period of his life when he had much granted time on his hands. The frame was actually given by Dad to sister Alberta, wherein I inherited the art after "Bertie" passed away.



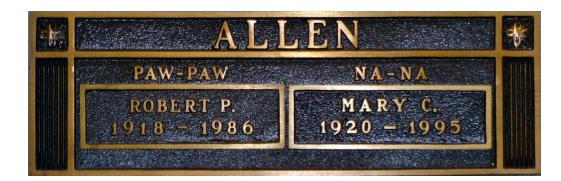
Vaughn Adams, Sr. with Sons Ronald William and Vaughn Paul, Jr. Chicago, 1980

This picture was taken by a sales staff member working with Dad in Chicago during a surprise visit by Ron and I during a work related visit from Phoenix. Ron was living in the south side of Chicago at the time.

Vaughn P. Adams, Sr. is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery 1847 14th Street, (14th and Pico Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA. / (310) 450-0781 Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors 192 Arizona Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Phone Number: (310) 395-9988

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Vaughn Paul Adams, Sr. (aka Robert P. Allen) Death Certificate, 09 June 1986



Dad and his second wife, Mary Catherine Perry, are interred at the Woodlawn Mausoleum, Santa Monica, California. This photograph was taken on July 17, 2013.





Woodlawn Mausoleum, July 17, 2013

Margaret Violet (Sinkovitz) Adams



Margaret V. Adams, 1955



Margaret Violet, 1993



Margaret V. Adams, 1960



Mom, Chris, Vaughn, Polly, Jon, 1995

Margaret Violet (Mom) married Larry Taylor on 03 Nov 1962 in Hammond, Indiana and started L&M Jewelry Store on Ridge Road in Lansing, Illinois. In 1972 Mom and Larry retired to New Port Richey, Florida, after transferring their store to daughter, Alberta Lee Adams Kontos.

Larry Taylor passed away on 31 May 1985 from complications of a stroke. Mom continued to live in the New Port Richey, Florida area. We had wonderful times together visiting and took her to Paris in 1986 for a memorable fun holiday.

Mom in 1995 married Donald Hansen and continued to live in her home in New Port Richey.

Mom became ill in 2000 at age 86. Brother, Ron, and his wife, Joan, sacrificially left their work of ten years at my company, BTI Consultants, sold their home in Tempe, Arizona, and moved to Florida to take care of our dear Mom.

Our dear Mom passed away on 7 April, 2002 in New Port Richey, Pasco County, Florida.

In Memory of Margaret Violet Adams A Tribute by Vaughn P. Adams, Jr April 7, 2002

Our dear and loving mother passed away on April 7, 2002 to be with our Lord in heaven. With her compassion, kindness, soft loving ways and bright optimism, Mom will be greatly missed by so many family and friends who had their hearts and lives blessed by her very presence. We mourn our earthly loss, but rejoice in her new body in Christ and heavenly home.

Margaret was born on January 23, 1914, in Rochester, Pennsylvania of parents Albert Sinkovitz and Golda Orock. Margaret was the first born of five children with surviving sister, Helen Ruth Jaros, living in Stanford, FL, with her son, Charles.

Margaret married Vaughn Paul Adams (1912-1986), also from Rochester, on September 11, 1933. Their children are Alberta Lee Kontos of Lansing, IL, Vaughn Paul, Jr. (Polly), Tempe, AZ, and Ronald William (Joan) of New Port Richey, FL with whom Mom resided and received loving care until her departure. Surviving stepchildren include Larry Taylor, Jr. and Gerry Taylor, sons of Larry Taylor, Sr., from the Port Richey area.

Margaret has 19 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Six of her grandchildren live in the Lansing area: Wanda (Charles) Foster, Meg (Todd) Tempco, Carrie (Michael) Yoniles, Rhonda (Gary) Throw, Michael (Rebecca) Adams and John Eric Adams. Other grandchildren include Vaughn Adams III, and Kenton Adams, from Tempe, AZ; Tracy (Brent) Davis of Raleigh, NC; Laura (John) Lorance, David Adams of San Francisco, CA; and Sherrie Teiga of Double spring, AL.

Mom was a long time resident of the Port Richey area, retiring there in 1972 with her husband, Lawrence Elmer Taylor (1915-1985), from Lansing, IL. Larry and Mom married on November 3, 1962, and commenced the still flourishing L&M Jewelry business in Lansing. Not to be idle handed, Mom continued to do necklace restringing work for jewelry businesses in the Port Richey area until her calling home. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springhill, Florida.

Mom was unceasingly thoughtful, caring, smiling, and viewed life from the most positive light. She overcame life's hurdles with uplifting determinism and hard work. Her most precious possessions were not her things, but rather the people and their treasured memories together. Mom was always one you could talk with about a trouble or care and step away having a refreshing, positive new outlook. She always made you feel blessed. Mom was dearly loved.

Viewing services will be held at the Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home, 3227 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL 60438 on Wednesday, April 10 between 5-9 pm. Memorial services will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 11 am at the First United Methodist Church, 6635 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, IN. Graveside services will follow.

Loving Memories of Mom

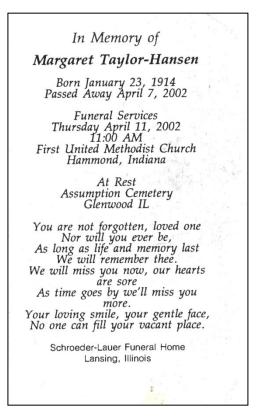
Engaging smiles and tender words, That softened hearts and gave us needed calm. Her gracious ways that stayed concerns, Soft spoken words as soothing balm.

The Love you've shared, we'll pass along, And try from start of dawn to setting sun. Your love is with us as the wind, Cascading through the lives you've touched and won.

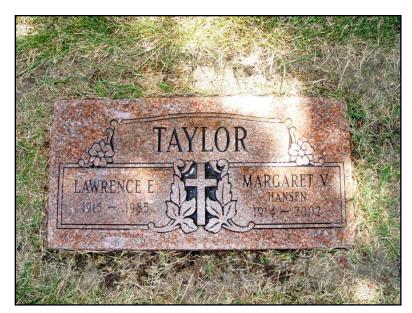
We miss you Mom, our hearts do sing, And thank you that we have your love within, To pass this down to those we touch, And wait to see your lovely face again.



Margaret Violet Sinkovitz Adams 1940



In Memory of Mom



Gravestone of Margaret Violet Taylor (Adams) and Lawrence E. Taylor Assumption Cemetery, 19500 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Glenwood, Illinois

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Death Certificate of Margaret Violet Taylor (Adams), 7 April 2002