

Transitions

Personal – Elementary through Junior High School

- Pre Elementary School
 - Very Small Town (200 people)
 - Living behind the post office – Mom's Mom was Postmistress
 - My dad buying Heating & Electric business
 - **Sister being born (I was 5 years old)**
 - Small Town (400 people)
 - **Moving to 400 person town (3 miles away)**
 - **Buying our house – in town with corn fields on two sides**
 - Great grandfather, grandfather & father lived there
- Elementary School (400 person town only – 13 kids)
 - Coming home for lunch with family
 - Pickup sports (not having enough kids)
 - Riding our bikes around town
 - **Playing Little League baseball**
 - Winning Peoria Area Little League Championship
 - Hitting a grand slam homerun to win one of the games
- Junior High (our 400 person town & a 2,000 person town combined – 40 kids)
 - **Mother started teaching girls PE when I started in Junior High**
 - She taught Jr High in the morning & Sr High in the afternoon
 - **Hard to have your mother teach in your small school, raised expectations for me**
 - **Taking individual academic classes**
 - **Having to ride the bus to the 2,000 person town every day during Junior High**
 - 7th Grade
 - **Merging with other town kids (27 of them and 13 of us)**
 - Becoming friends with Bud because I missed the bus (now my closest longest term friend)
 - **1st girl friend - having Sally ask me to be her boy friend**
 - **Finishing 4th in State Baseball Championship**
 - **Playing first serious basketball**
 - 8th Grade
 - Winning State Baseball Championship
 - Continuing loving basketball
 - 9th Grade
 - Little serious basketball because most 9th grades were part of senior high & played on JV teams
 - Winning American Legion Award
 - Attending Boys State during the summer
 - Being on the Honor Role every year

Transitions

Personal – Senior High School

- Senior High (Varna & Lacon combined – 40 kids)
 - Sophomore
 - Hitting a triple my 1st at bat
 - Junior
 - Winning league in baseball
 - Working really hard to become the best player on the JV basketball team
 - Loving basketball more than baseball, but realizing I was not as good at basketball
 - **Being lead in Jr Play – not a theater person, but teacher felt I would learn my lines**
 - Playing baseball with 20 year olds during summer & having a game inside the Joliet Maximum Security Federal Prison
 - Senior
 - Having the top batting average during senior year
 - Being in Sr Play
 - **Falling in love for the first time**
 - **My college process**
 - Wanting to go to Air Force Academy and be a jet pilot – had an alternate appointment, but flunked physical
 - Math & Science teacher (only one for entire high school) said I should be an engineer, so I did
 - Loving to play basketball, but not as successful as in baseball
 - Getting very good grades with a modest amount of work (2nd in my class)

Professional – Junior High & Senior High

- Junior High
 - Working on farms bailing hay & cutting weeds out of fields
 - Mowing yards
 - **Starting youth church group & kids making me leader for 3 yrs.**
- Senior High
 - Town choosing me to coach the Varna Little League team (never had a high school kid do that – we only won one game)
 - Being chosen as President of the Letterman's Club w/o running for office
 - Being chosen as Senior Class President w/o running for office
- **Worked for my father – 5 ½ days per week**
 - Summer after: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
 - Apprentice electrician, plumber & heating/air conditioning
 - My father was a master at all these trades

Transitions

Personal - College

- College – Freshman
 - **Living away from home**
 - Making friends in dorm was easy
 - **Shock of engineering school vs. High School**
 - Look to your left & your right – they won't be here when you graduate
 - Kids had freshman Calculus, Physics, Chemistry
 - I had never heard of Calculus
 - **Getting B's & C's my 1st semester – feeling like a failure**
 - My roommate dropped out after 1st semester – background just like me (including my name)
 - **AP Calculus to Regular Calculus - 1st decision of my own**
 - Learned how to study
 - Playing on intramural basketball team – realized I was really good at an engineering school, could be playing on the varsity
 - Joined fraternity in Jan – those guys turned out to be my college friends
 - Starting catcher on baseball team in Spring
- College – Sophomore
 - **Switching from Civil Engineering to Electrical Engineering**
 - Half way through 1st Semester
 - Way behind rest of EE class
 - Tough group to be on a curve with
 - **Moved off campus into fraternity house**
 - Fraternity sports was a big thing – our fraternity won all 3 that year: football, basketball and softball
- College – Junior
 - Lived in officers room in fraternity house
 - Now heavily into Elec Eng course work
 - **Realizing how much of a grind engineering has become**
 - Can see light at the end of the tunnel – senior year not so bad, last semester is almost no work.
 - Outside work (Newspaper, VP Fraternity projects) hurting my grades so I drop baseball
 - Fraternity won all 3 again that year: football, basketball and softball
 - Big flap over going to fraternity national convention
 - **Decided to move out fraternity house into an apartment for senior year.**

Transitions

Professional - College

- College – Freshman
 - During Year -
 - Summer job – two choices & took going back home
 - Civil Eng. type job – surveying high water marks for flood control
 - **Going back home** & working on county road crew – blacktopping roads
- College – Sophomore
 - During Year
 - Elected VP of Fraternity in Spring to serve for my junior year
 - **Summer Job: Detroit Edison - Generating Equip Purchasing**
 - **Lived with a family who had son my age & my name**
 - **Became really good friends with all of his friends & had a ball**
 - Fell in love with one of his friend's older sister
- College – Junior
 - During Year
 - **Founding college newspaper - Loving being the publisher & finding creative people**
 - Managing Homecoming Display Project
 - Managing Rush Brochure Project
 - Elected President Student Body in Spring to serve for senior year
 - **Summer Job: Indianapolis - Indiana Bell - Field Training**
 - Told I did not have personality to be in sales
 - **Lived with fraternity brother's family**
 - Had to move out mid summer when fraternity brother got married and moved his new bride into the house
 - Made new group of friends