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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

One would think that there would be little need to acknowledge others, at least in terms of resource material, when writing a person's autobiography. After all, you are writing about yourself, a subject no one knows more about than you. Well, there would still be formatting and proof reading, but beyond that who needs help. It didn't take me long to find out that I did and so, I pause to acknowledge those who have not only expressed interest in my efforts but also have provided material to supplement and even jar loose various memories which have long been locked up in the cranial cells to which they have been assigned or maybe just tossed in.

First on the list comes my wife, Lethia. I thank her with all my heart for the hours she spent proof reading early in my effort, often asking questions about the meaning or message I was trying to convey. She also gave me simple encouragement when I was in doubt, which made me feel the effort was worthwhile.

That last item is of utmost importance because I questioned the interest anyone would have, particularly outside my posterity and often considered just dumping the whole thing. I was well aware that my life's story was hardly one people would seek out to read and, in fact, would even scan out of courtesy. She convinced me that most of my posterity would read it, particularly those who really didn't get to know me. She even convinced me to give a copy to each of my siblings whether they read it or not, an idea I had toyed with off and on. Of course, the deed is yet to be done and only time will tell what their reaction will be. The main thing I have going for me is the price is right. They can fake interest and then relegate it to file 13 or add to their white elephant assortment. It might make a nice gift for a disobedient child as well. I leave that up to them.

Grammar was another problem. English was hardly my best subject and Lethia kindly pointed out some of my more blatant mistakes. Later grammar check was added to spell check, which

saved her a lot of work. Even with those two checks and the other wondrous tools provided with a modern computer, mistakes can abound, particularly when I'm doing the writing. I seem to have a knack of using various words improperly and providing a somewhat fuzzy description of events. The reader should keep in mind that what he or she is reading could have been a lot worse had I been left to my own devices. You, as well as I, owe Lethia a vote of thanks for her dedicated effort to make me look more literate than I am.

Secondly, I suppose, I should thank Esther, my dear first wife, for her desire to photograph various family events. Had it been left to me, I would have taken few if any photos. Pictures I obtained from both Valerie and Celeste, my daughters, were also available because of Esther's efforts. Reviewing them has been a real blessing for me, in that many wonderful memories have passed through my mind regarding her and the years we spent rearing our family together.

Valerie has always been a picture collector of family events because of her love of others and, of course, her interest in genealogy. She has copied many old pictures and even accumulated numerous originals of her own in addition to those from others such as Esther and my mother. She graciously allowed me to keep her supply of pictures relevant to my project for several years. I thank her for her patience and generosity. Similarly, I thank Jared for his mania for photographing our experiences together.

Celeste surprised me with her cache of old photos. I never dreamed she had so many. They came to my knowledge when I asked her about a baby picture I remembered of her, taken in Mississippi, when she was about a year old. She also very graciously let me take her photo albums home for my project. Though I kept them too long, she never complained. I knew I couldn't use all the pictures and wanted to peruse them at my own convenience. They added much to that which Valerie provided,

particularly in their school years. Celeste also kept notes on our European trip to pick up Tom from his mission, which proved beneficial. She also receives a sincere thank you.

My son, Tom, was my technical expert for formatting the book and providing any eye appeal it may have. Working in that area of expertise for a living made him a valuable resource to me and, the price was right. He not only showed me the basics for planning the book's format and choosing various fonts but he also taught me about headers and footers, picture insertion and anchoring, using the drawing tools of MS Word and setting up an automatic table of contents for various levels of subject material. He was also source of instruction and trouble shooting by telephone. Without his help the book's appearance would definitely date me. One thing he couldn't provide, however, was the mental acuity necessary to absorb the given instructions. I spent many painful hours trying to carry out operations he termed "really neat and easy to apply". Even so, I thank him with all my heart for the basics which I finally conquered sufficiently to make them useable techniques.

Ken Karcher was a surprising source of help. He and his buddy, Bob Schilleruff, provided many pictures of Bear Valley experiences. Bob spent a couple of weeks with us one summer and photographed everything that moved. He didn't know that he was laying groundwork for a future book. It was quite a hobby with him. Ken was also into photography to quite an extent and provided many more pictures, all black and white of course. These pictures brought back memories of many Bear Valley experiences and provided evidence of me doing such things as shoeing a horse and leading a pack string. What a choice resource they were. I thank Bob for his early efforts as well as Ken. I also owe Ken a vote of thanks for later pictures he sent and stories he brought back to memory.

Phil was nice enough to send me several stories of incidents which occurred during our growing years that I have included in appropriate slots. I think you will find his humor enjoyable, to say the least and they will give you a little different perspective from mine of the Obenchain household during those special years. His siblings have probably already read them. Many thanks for his efforts, interest and ability.

In a similar manner, Connie reminded me of a couple of incidents which she left for me to

relate in my own words. That may be a mistake on her part because I have obviously made myself appear as innocent as possible, thereby weakening her case. Of course, those that know both her and I will undoubtedly give her the benefit of the doubt, should she care to challenge my version. Just be nice and accept what I say, Connie and by the way, thanks.

I have reread Mom's autobiography, "In the Past Tents", to look for family incidents and be sure I relate any such incidents she happened to refer to correctly. She corrected me on several issues in the original version of this effort while she was still among us and I don't want to risk her wrath when I finally depart this earth and see her once again. I really did enjoy rereading her life's story. Actually I had read it rather piecemeal earlier from the hand written version and have thus gained a little clearer view of events early in my life, particularly the Illinois years. I thus include quotes from her life's story and I also used a photo of the Heeps' (sp) house I found therein. Her autobiography was a great help for which I belatedly thank her. Of course, such thanks constitute only a small part of what I owe her as well as dad for being my parents and providing me with the essentials of life.

I owe a sincere thank you to a lady working with Schlumberger named Patti Oberpriller. That name sounds like it could tie into the Obenchain family tree but I wouldn't place that kind of a psychological burden on a nice lady. She was very receptive to my plight and sent much useful material. For that I am extremely grateful and thank her for her efforts with all my heart.

Finally, I thank Herb Lindsey, a friend at the temple, who volunteered to provide a final proof reading prior to publishing. I hope he doesn't turn up much but thank him for what he does.

There may be others I have missed including all my brothers and sisters who helped generate so many wonderful memories of life and even stimulated my personal growth by not putting up with my sometimes baby like antics. Dan in particular, deserves more than just a thank you, maybe a big fat hug and kiss. Watch out dear brother I'm in a friendly mood right now. Those wanting to know the reason for such a magnanimous gesture on my part will have to read chapters 1 and 2, which should clarify the reason.

Lastly, I say in all sincerity, God bless all my gracious contributors for their efforts.