

The Blessings of My Life

- A Memoir by Joe Tembrock





Joe as a Baby



Ogema in 1950s



Brother Jim Vows at St. John's
Bill, Marilyn, Ray, Jim, Paul, Margaret, Joe
(My Parents and Siblings)



Our wedding at St Paul's in St. Cloud
Bob Bergen, Fred Wright, Kathy Tembrock, Patty
Brandl, Judy and Joe Tembrock, Gene Brandl,
Gary Brandl, Paul Tembrock



Joe with Children at Death Valley



Half Dome - Joey is Six



Joe and His Vineyard



241 Royal Court - Christmas Lights



Thanksgiving 2022 Family Picture



Love Keeps Us Together

Greetings,

You are invited to read my memoir: *The Blessings of My Life - A Memoir by Joe Tembrock*.

I have written this memoir for my children's grandchildren (in other words for posterity). I have lived my 84 years in times of great transitions, from the small town of Ogema (250 people in Northern Minnesota on the Ojibwa Indian Reservation, where horses were still used), to living in Silicon Valley (Cupertino/San Jose California).

I have found great joy working with my daughters Becky and Amy and grandson Josiah (computer tech) developing my memoir. My son Joey recorded some awesome DVDs. Everytime I open my memoir, I always have to stop and select something to enjoy.

I started the memoir process a few years ago and finished it in the spring of 2024 just before I had my right leg amputated. I am now in poor health. It truly was a joy to reminisce the blessing of my life.

Joe Tembrock

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To access my memoir online:

Go to the memoir link directly by going to the following website: <https://joetembrockmemoir.com/> or type joetembrockmemoir in your browser to get to this link. Common Browsers are: Google Chrome; Safari; Microsoft Edge.

Following are suggestions for accessing my memoir and a couple of my favorites:

- 1) If printing the document, consider not printing in color (save printer ink).
- 2) The end of each section in the memoir indicates if there are additional photos, documents, movies, or audio on the website.
- 3) My favorite entries on the website are:
 - a) Movies/DVD Section 2.10 *Joe and Judy 55th Anniversary*
 - b) Movies/DVD Section 4.15 *Shad fishing with Joey and the girls* (advice on choosing a life partner)
 - c) Movies/DVD Section 4.15 *Family fun*
 - d) Documents Section 4.15 *Advice for raising a family*

Table of Contents:

1 Who is Joe Tembrock?	9
2 Life Phases	10
2.1 Ancestors/History	10
2.2 My Parents	12
2.3 Ogema	13
2.4 Ogema Grade School	14
2.5 Waubun High School	16
2.6 Ogema Projects	17
2.7 University - St. John's	17
2.8 Military - Alaska	18
2.9 University - MBA: University of Chicago	19
2.10 My Wife Judy and Our Wedding	20
2.11 Family - Cupertino Life	22
2.12 Family - Santa Rosa	24
2.13 Family - Children and Grandchildren	24
2.14 Work - HP/My Businesses	28
2.15 Volunteering	30
2.16 Retirement	33
3 Blessings	36
3.1 Caring and Trust in People	36
3.2 Positive Relationships with Strong Women	36
3.3 Sharing - People Who Lived With Us and Other Sharing	36
3.4 Family/Friends/Groups	39
3.5 Travel/Adventures	40
3.6 Joe's Recreation - Fishing/Mountain Climbing/Backpacking/Skiing	42
3.7 Spiritual Life	44
4 Life Observations	47
4.1 Health/Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs	47
4.2 Sex	48
4.3 Multitasking	48
4.4 Strategic Outlook/Analytical Approach	49
4.5 Life Challenges	49
4.6 Social Justice	50
4.7 Religion	51
4.8 Famous People/Events	51
4.10 Education	53
4.11 Curiosity	53
4.12 Climate Change	54
4.13 Living My Last Years	54
4.14 Wisdom	55
4.15 Advice for Raising a Family	55

5.0 Other Memoirs (Referenced)	56
2.1 John Tembrock Genealogy	56
2.8 Jim Tembrock: Jim/Bill/Joe Trip to Joe's Army Training	56
5.1 Margaret Tembrock Story: I Was Born in a Granary	56
5.2 Amy Tembrock Edmondson: Tembrock Stories	56
5.3 Nicole Tembrock Genealogy	56
5.4 EJ Brandl (Judy's Dad) Telling Stories	56
Conclusion	56
Acknowledgements	57
Epilogue	57

1 Who is Joe Tembrock?

First, why am I writing my memoir? I have thought about writing my memoir for many years. Two events recently happened. In March of 2020, I became 80 years old. I am now as old as the very old people of my youth. My wife Judy and I are members of a discussion group in our previous parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. The group is led by a former Jesuit priest. We read a book called, "From Age-ing to Sage-ing" by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. His main thesis is that as we age, we should strive to become an elder and not just elderly (that is a person that is waiting to die). He strongly urges elders to use the valuable time left in life to share their life's experiences and wisdom. Someone might ask: "What do you expect to accomplish by writing this memoir?" First, this is not intended to be an ego trip. On a scale of 1 to 10, we probably are a 10 in our good fortune by any measure. My intent is to objectively reflect on my unique life and to share insights that I have developed for my children, grandchildren, and posterity.

Next comes the exciting part in the nature (genetics) vs nurture (environment) of my becoming Joe Tembrock. I will start this with a small observation from my 84 years of living: I believe life consists of random events of luck or blessings and crap or bad luck. We don't choose our parents or our birth environment (there is a huge difference between Cairo, Egypt and Ogema, Minnesota). It's what we do with what we have that determines our happiness and joy and if we believe in the next life, our meaningfulness of eternity. When I mentioned my plans for writing my life experiences to my son, Joey, he remembered what my father-in-law, E.J. Brandl told him many years ago, "Some of us live and learn; others just live." A couple observations from my wife Judy, "The most successful family events are focused on everyone having fun. If Joe can think of something, he will attempt to do it." Anyway, as my Aunt Catherine, my mom's sister, would say, "Enough is too much," so let's get started.

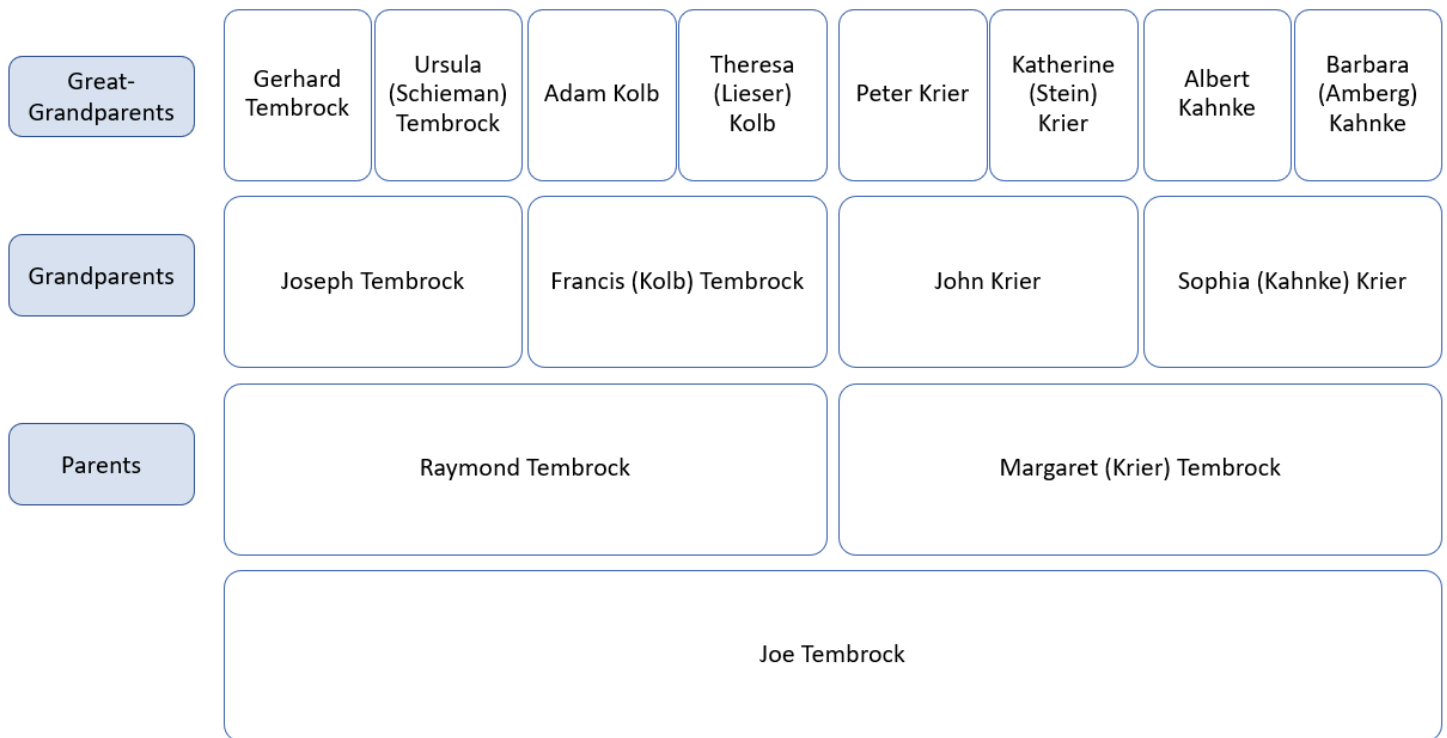


On website see additional: **Documents**

2 Life Phases

2.1 Ancestors/History

I initially planned to include some genealogy of my ancestors. I'll let someone else do that. I will briefly share my thoughts of my ancestors that I met or where I have original pictures preserved. I have the original curved glass photo of my great grandparents, Gerhard Tembrock (b 1835 d 1902) and Ursula Schieman Tembrock (b 1853 d 1931). I also have a large framed wedding photo of my grandmother Sophia Krier's grandparents, Johhann Amberg (b 1820 d 1912) and Sophia (Himber) Amberg (b 1834 d 1918). I remember my Grandma Francis Tembrock's mother, Theresa Kolb, knitting us children warm winter mittens when we were young. I also remember my Grandma Krier's father, Albert Kahnke (b 1857 d 1952), visiting the farm in Callaway. One other memory: during a summer vacation from college I drove my grandmother, Sophia (meaning wisdom) to visit her relatives in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. She was so happy to visit her extended family. Following is a genealogy chart:



Our Children and Grandchildren:

Rebecca Mary (Becky) and Dave Lorenz: Josiah

Mary Margaret and Frank Roller: Ryan and Lauren (Albin) Roller, Will and Terah (Lyons) Roller [step children], Nate and Tyler

Amy Kathleen and Mike Edmondson: Rachel, Emily, and Jennay

Joseph Gerhard (Joey) and Belinda (Mulroy) Tembrock: Kate Lynn and Anna



Gerhard and Ursula (Schieman) Tembrock



Joe and Francis (Kolb) Tembrock and Family
Back row: Martha Bergin, Angie Bergin, Sadie Bergin, Marcela Knopke
Front row: Ray Tembrock, Francis (Kolb) Tembrock, Joseph Tembrock, Alvina Hoodecheck



Adam and Theresa (Lieser) Kolb, J.H. Tembrock and Francis (Kolb) Tembrock, Ray and Margaret (Krier) Tembrock, Sophia (Kahnke) and J.P. Krier, Albert Kahnke



Left to Right: Sophia (Himber) Amberg (Margaret's Great Grandmother), Barbara (Amberg) Kahnke (Margaret's Grandmother), Sophia (Kahnke) Krier (Margaret's mom), Baby Catherine Krier (Margaret's sister) in front

For ancestry stories, see *Tembrock Stories* by Amy Tembrock Edmondson at **Documents section 5.2** on the website.

On website see additional: **Photos Documents Movies/DVD Audio**

2.2 My Parents

My biggest blessing by far was being born to Ray and Margaret Tembrock. They really wanted us five children and did their best to give us their love and support. Obviously we all had unique personalities. I'm sure a huge challenge was having three children in three years. This was also the end of the great depression, and we lived very frugally. One of my brothers had a hard time memorizing. Mom would spend hours helping him learn parts in plays and mass server responses. My mom had two years of college at Moorhead State and taught grade school. My dad had one year of college at St. John's. One of their main goals in life was to support each of us to go to college. They succeeded as all of us graduated from college and several earned advanced degrees. Our parents believed in the Catholic church, lived their beliefs, and attempted to pass them on to their children. Both of my parents came from German backgrounds and were very task oriented. They worked hard and expected us children to help. Fortunately they gave us freedom to play hard and to become our own personalities. My mom lived a very full life and died at 94. I remember a story at one of their sibling parties. She and Roy Bergen had a contest to see who could kick the highest. They used our refrigerator in Ogema as a measure. I think mom won!!! She had some major medical issues later in life, but lived at home until three months before she died.

My dad retired in his fifties because none of his sons were interested in taking over his business. As I reviewed family history, I read that my grandfather was a perfectionist (J.H. Tembrock). I also read that my dad, Ray, was a perfectionist. He also was very kind and rarely refused a request or to attend family events. There was a neighbor lady called "Old Lady Liezert." She had ugly bumps on her arms and was not pleasant to look at. Periodically dad would ask us kids to visit her as she couldn't get out. She always gave us cookies, and I believe that kind gesture by my dad helped me to accept infirmities in people. He suffered from Lichen Planus, Osteoarthritis, and Gout. Unfortunately, at age 57, as he walked home from work one day, he got hit by someone that had spent the day in the liquor store. Dad's knee was broken. He had many operations and finally a high leg amputation. He also had a major heart attack at age 65 and almost died. My mom was his constant care giver for almost 20 years. He died at home at age 75. He also had epilepsy and several times had "Grand Malls" while driving. This was very challenging for my mom. He also had Celiac disease though we were unaware of it at the time. He had a hard time giving up beer and didn't give up on bread. He took a very powerful drug, Perigorick, to help with his Celiac disease. He accepted his way of life. He read his prayer books daily and enjoyed the birds in his birdfeeder by the kitchen window. He knocked on the window to scare away squirrels. He had the warmest handshake when we arrived to visit and when we left. As he became more of an invalid he would say to my mom, "Margaret, I love you so much." I called him up on his birthday, June 17th 1988. Usually Mom was home and he would say a few words and pass the phone on to mom. Mom wasn't home, and we talked for quite awhile. He died a few days later. My brother Paul had accompanied mom and dad to a Bergen wedding the previous week. Paul told us that dad hardly weighed anything as he helped dad move about.

See *I Was Born in a Granary* by my mom at **Documents section 5.1** on the website.

Note: I spent approximately 10 years lovingly helping my mom write the document.



Ray and Margaret wedding



Ray and Margaret's 45th Wedding Anniversary

On website see additional: **Photos Documents Movies/DVD Audio**

2.3 Ogema

I grew up in Ogema, Minnesota. Ogema is located on the White Earth Indian Reservation. It had a population of about 250 when I lived there. In the 1940's and 1950's the farms were relatively small and there were customers to support the businesses in Ogema. There were three grocery stores, three gas stations, a lumber

yard, a hardware store, a liquor store, a couple of bars, and a bank. A few Native Americans lived in town. There was a basic trust of people. Many never locked their doors. Other than alcohol messing up lots of people's lives, I don't remember any harmful confrontations growing up. Maybe 30 or so years ago I hired a local artist to record the Ogema businesses of the 1950's on the Ogema Liquor Store ceiling. The tiles are still there. There was no racial prejudice or violence that I was aware of. Everyone knew everyone in town, and I was not aware of any violence or obvious social status problems, but in the past there had been a history of treating people badly. I do remember a story from Julius S. (Julius worked as a mechanic for Joe T.) from a generation before my time: "I remember I was working in the Tembrock Brothers and Kolb General Store. The store also did funerals. A drunk native American had been found dead on the road; someone tied him to a horse drawn wagon and pulled him into town." Julius ran home after he saw the body.

All my friends had the same kind of bikes we had. We all swam in Ogema Lake, with no lifeguard, and had time to play. A couple short stories: My brother Bill and neighbor Annette J. got married in the barn, and I think I was the priest. Bill, Donny T. and I went camping east of Ogema and sawed down a big oak tree. The owner, Nanny V., told us not to do that again. My brother Bill was double-dared to taste an old cowpie by Jack L.'s barn. I got in trouble with the law a couple times: Bill and I were walking along a street near "Old Lady Lizzert's" house. There was a street light, and I threw a snowball and knocked out the light bulb. "Old Lady Lizzert" called the city cop, Skeeb C., and I received a reprimand from my dad. Another time Bill, Donny T. and I were building a raft near Ogema Lake. We were short of 2x4s and pulled a big jack from Donny's garage with plans to remove some wood from an old warming house. Again a neighbor notified Skeeb C., and I got another talking to from dad. I almost thought he reflected back on his youth and wasn't really angry. Just don't do it again. Ogema was a great place to grow up.



Ogema State Bank, owned by Tembrocks



Ray and Margaret and the Four kids
(Marilyn, Jim, Joe and Bill)

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

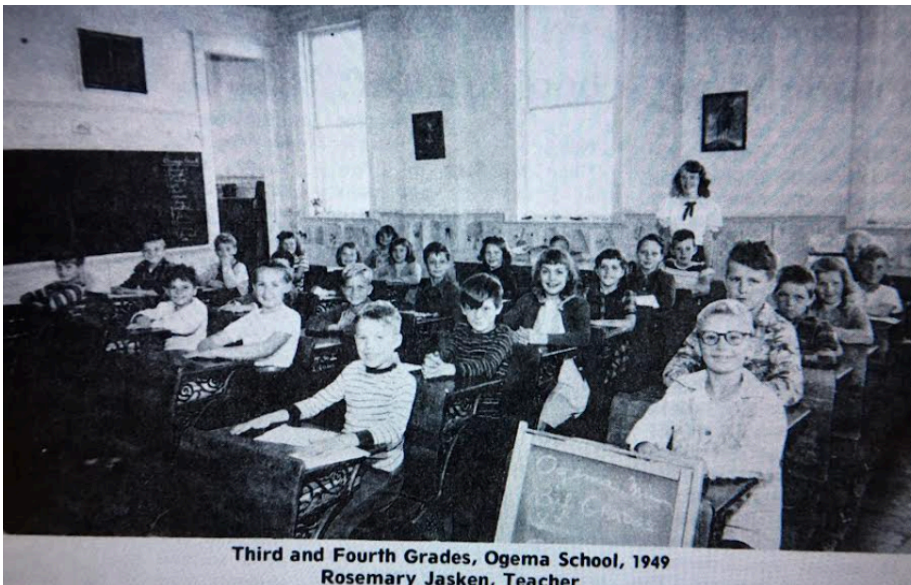
2.4 Ogema Grade School

My mom was an elementary school teacher and used her awesome skills and tenacity to give us kids a good foundation. We had children's books at home like See Spot Run and were encouraged to read. I went to a four room schoolhouse in Ogema. Mrs G. was my first and second grade teacher. There was no Kindergarten. I have happy thoughts about the first two years of school, and I learned the basics. I think I had Alto K. for third grade. She was an 80 year old teacher that wrote poetry. Rosemary J. taught 4th grade. She was nice but short on order and discipline. Charlotte B. taught 5th and 6th grade upstairs. She was OK. I remember looking out the window and watching trains. The best teacher was the principal, Arthur A. who taught 7th and

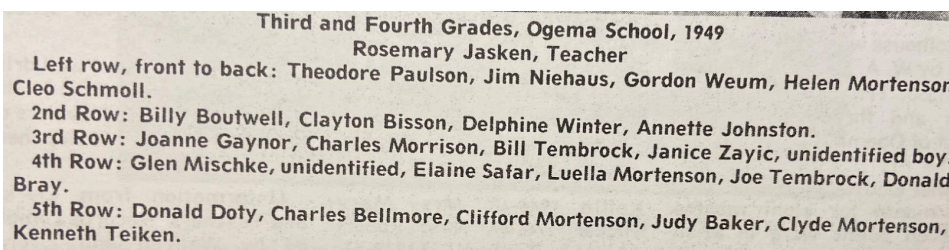
8th grades. He had high expectations for his students. I remember helping students with their lessons and learned by doing that. In the winter we had PE in the town hall. There was woodworking training in the basement. I still have the cutting board I made - it's a fish with the tail broken off. There was a Christmas pageant in the hall and also a play. I got a good primary education and enjoyed school. I remember I accidentally knocked Judy B.'s head and broke a window in the school. I was so afraid my dad would find out as he was chair of the school board. He didn't.



The Original Ogema Grade School



Ogema Grade School - Joe 4th Grade, Bill 3rd Grade



On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.5 Waubun High School

High school seemed easy. I was generally able to get my homework done at school and rarely studied for finals. I ended up with a 3.95 GPA. The English teacher, Mother May P., had high expectations. She also taught my dad many years before. There were quite a few Native Americans the first two years of high school. Many of the boys dropped out when they were 16. I remember my typing teacher who was called "Badger Head" W. Our typewriters would often stick and when the teacher was not in the classroom, we would pretend to drop them out the window. One of the best classes I took was shop from Mr. W. I learned woodworking and especially mechanical drawing. Mr L. taught science, and I loved science. I remember getting into real trouble by putting a stick of copper in an acid and generating a poison cloud. I got kicked out of class for the day for that. I lettered in all four sports, but I wasn't good in any of them. I joined the band after hurting my ankle in football. I was given the heaviest instrument, a bass sax. I remember someone putting a tack on the principal's chair, and he got mad. I wasn't challenged in high school and thus was not prepared for college. I have since organized many Waubun High School reunions over the years. We now meet at Cedar Crest on White Earth Lake.


Yvonne Scherping
 "As good as gold I try to be, but oh! What Saturday nights go to me."
 PTA 3; FHA 3,4; Student Librarian 3,4; Paper Staff 2; Annual Assistant Editor 4.
 Her future is undecided.

"Scherp"



Cleo Page
 "Pretty as a picture with a frame to match."
 Band 1,2,3,4; Chorus 1,2,3,4; Class Play 3,4; Debate 2,3,4; Deciam 1,2,3,4; PTA 3; FHA 3,4; Paper Staff 2,3,4; Student Council 3; Student Librarian 3,4; Cheerleader 1,2,3,4; Pep Club 1,2,3,4; One Act Play 2,3; Class President 3; Girls Glee Club 1,2,3,4. Her future is undecided.

"Cleo"



HONOR

Larry Revier
 "A store of knowledge he never got from books."
 Chorus 3,4; Class Play 4; Debate 3; Deciam 3,4; PTA 1; Student Council 2; Student Librarian 4; Paper Staff 2; Annual Business Manager 4; Pep Club 4; Lettermen's Club 2,3,4; Basketball 1,2,3; Track 1,2,3,4; One Act Play 3; Boys Glee Club 3,4. Plans a future in the field of Science.

"Boss"



STUDENTS


Joseph Tenbrook
 "Greater men have lived, but I doubt it."
 Band 3,4; Class Play 3,4; Debate 3,4; Lettermen's Club 2,3,4; Student Librarian 4; Football 1,2; Baseball 1,2; Basketball 1,2,3,4; Track 3,4; One Act Play 2,3. Ambition is to attend College.

"Joe"



Barbara Noddy
 "A woman's guess is much more accurate than a man's certainty."
 Chorus 2,3; Class Play 3; PTA 3; FHA 3,4; Paper Staff 3; Student Librarian 2,3,4; Annual Editor 4; Pep Club 1; Homecoming Queen 4; Class Vice President 2; Class President 4; Girls Glee Club 2,3. Ambition is to attend College.

"Barb"



Waubun High School, Class of '58 Honor Students Note: I didn't say the quote about "Greater men." The yearbook staff did it.

On website see additional: **Photos Documents Audio**

2.6 Ogema Projects

I remember a lot of hard working, caring people that gave me opportunities to learn and grow. I remember Bert N. owner of N. Hardware and Millard B. manager of Wilcox Lumber Company. They helped me to become a “handyman.” I learned to help maintain our house, my dad’s business “Ogema State Bank”, our cottage, and our church. I got a professional Craftsman jig saw when I was in late grade school. I used it to make a chess case and a complex sewing box for my mom. I built two boats and both were an initial disaster. I built “Suzie” to replace the dangerous boat our Grandpa Krier gave us. I built it in the basement of our house and I couldn’t get it upstairs. So after some very strong cuss words, I had to take it apart. I built “Rosie” as a duck boat and made it one fourth the size of Suzie. It wasn’t stable and I had to redo it. A major project was building steps to the lake at our cottage and also building a dock. My brother Bill and I painted our grandparent’s house in Callaway and Grandpa Krier gave us his 5 ½ horsepower Johnson outboard motor. One summer Dad said that the church needed painting. With miserable, shaky ladders we painted the old Ogema Catholic Church. In a high school shop class, I built a beautiful small lamp. I also built a basketball backboard that I attached to the woodshed.



Waubun HS - Shop Class, Made by Joe



Ogema Grade School - Made From Original Desk Tops

On website see additional: **Photos**

2.7 University - St. John’s

I started at St. John’s majoring in engineering and was highly challenged. I thought I was going to flunk out. I studied almost all the time my first year. I almost flunked algebra. I changed my major to business. After the first year, St. John’s was the perfect school for me. I did well in my classes and always audited extra classes like psychology, architecture, and music. I was like a sponge learning to appreciate knowledge and exploring. The following are Benedictine professors that helped change my life:

Father JP Earls (taught English and Poetry), Father Don Talafous (Chaplin - also visited us in California), Father Albrec Culhane (YCS Chaplain), Father Leonard Dosh (Geography and Oblates), Father Gordon Travis (Abnormal Psychology), "Bibs" Hubbert (Biology - one of my favorite professors), Father Martin Shirber (Economics - recommended me to the University of Chicago).

My brothers Bill and Jim were priesthood students while I was at St. John's. We spent enjoyable time hiking in the woods and fishing in Lake Sagatagan. I vividly remember praying Vespers with the brothers in the chapel below the main chapel. My brother Bill was a Benedictine brother at that time. I became an oblate of St. Benedict, and I am still an oblate as are my three brothers. I have told my wife Judy that I wouldn't be me if not for St. John's. I gradually changed my religious beliefs from following rules to being aware of God's presence in all people and all creation. The Benedictine rule is "That in all things God may be Glorified." The monks had certain hours each day for communal prayer, and I frequently participated in the evening prayer. The following are Benedictine monks that helped change my life:

Roman Homer baptized me in Ogema. He spoke Ojibwe and was rumored to have wrestled a bear. Alban Fruth took Mass servers hunting and taught music lessons. Benno Watrin was the last monk that spoke Ojibwe. Martin Rath was a priest at Ogema and led a tour of Turkey. Roman Paur was from Ogema and baptized our daughter Rebecca at St. John's Abbey Church.



St. Johns - My Brother Jim's vows



YCS - Young Christian Students (Bottom Row- 2nd From Right), Joe Tembrock - President)

*On website see additional: **Photos***

2.8 Military - Alaska

I joined ROTC in college for several reasons: I think I got \$28 a month, and I didn't want to be drafted because Vietnam was just starting. It was a good decision. I was sent to Alaska to be an officer in the 521st Transportation Company. They were short five officers, and I was the first to arrive. I was made Mess Officer, Supply Officer, Platoon Leader, and Gulkana Camp Commander. There were several advantages I got from this. As a Mess Officer, I got to test food for free. When I applied for a job at Hewlett Packard, the chief financial officer had been a Supply Officer. I participated at the base chapel and helped with Confirmation classes until I went on winter maneuvers. My most noteworthy experience in the military was Camp

Commander at Gulkana. We established camp in November and finished in March. Our goal was to provide a stopping place for the winter maneuvers that took place near Fairbanks. We lived in heated tents and had all the basics. I got to know the town's people, the Dew Line (radar) people, and a local Jesuit Mission at Copper Valley. I was able to share movies and got help from locals to repair our movie projector when the motor burned out from generator problems.

The second year in Alaska was more organized than the first as I had more experience. We were the last company to shut down, and we were short of rations. I suspect some of the troops were stealing supplies and trading for booze at the local roadstop. Also, a movie projector got lost. There were threats of my being charged for negligence, but nothing happened. The coldest temperature was 53 degrees below zero. Our gear was excellent, and I never was cold except in the unheated latrine. I did a lot of fishing and hunting. I was a poor shot, but my enlisted friend Koch got two caribou. We put them on the VW and had excellent sausage for months. An almost fatal experience was a bush pilot flying us into a fishing camp. After fishing, the pilot picked up our neighbors first. Tragically, he ran out of gas and all perished. Then we got picked up by an Army helicopter, and they did an emergency landing. A second helicopter picked us up, and we got back to the base safely.

One of the most memorable events in my life occurred March 27, 1964, at 5:36 PM. It was the Alaska earthquake that measured 9.2 on the Richter scale and lasted four and a half minutes. It is the second largest earthquake ever recorded. I was attending Good Friday services in the base chapel. It seemed that the building moved 10 feet from side to side and that freight trains were rushing by. I ducked under the pews and probably prayed. For the next month or so we were on alert to parole the damaged parts of Anchorage for any looting (there was none observed) and offered coffee and doughnuts. We witnessed the major damage in Seward and Valdez. Any building over five stories high was destroyed. My last three months in the military were a breeze. I got transferred to an admin company that was being eliminated. I was the commanding officer and there was just one person other than me in the unit and nothing to do. I was now at the same level as my previous generally incompetent commander. I took up golf and did more fishing.



1964 Alaska Earthquake



Bush Pilot That Crashed Returning the Other Campers

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.9 University - MBA: University of Chicago

I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was on active duty. I wasn't interested in working at the bank in Ogema. A good friend of mine from St. John's, Joe S. enrolled at the University of Chicago, and I followed

him. I was engaged to Judy before going to Chicago. Meanwhile Judy taught school in Mound, Minnesota. My first year in Chicago was fine, and I almost got on the honor roll. The next summer we got married and moved to married student housing in Chicago. After marriage and with a child on the way, student life was more challenging. The biggest benefit of the University of Chicago was a job offer from Hewlett-Packard. Judy and I traveled to Palo Alto at Christmastime, and I got a job offer then. I immediately accepted. However, I made a major mistake and didn't study for a boring organizational course and failed the midterm. This meant I would not formally graduate in March. Also I had to get a passing mark to graduate. That was a rough time. I studied day and night, with a child on the way, and a trip planned to California. Anyway, I got a "C" and all was well.



Joe's MBA Diploma

2.10 My Wife Judy and Our Wedding

Choosing Judy to be my life partner was the most important decision in my life. We dated our senior year in college (I was at St. John's; Judy at St. Ben's). The colleges had few classes together in those days. I met her at a joint meeting of YCS (Young Christian Students). We dated and became close. She attended my graduation and ROTC (Army) commission. I was assigned to Alaska, and Judy volunteered to teach in Puerto Rico. Immediately after graduation I drove 150 miles to St. Cloud and we spent an afternoon in a meadow drinking some wine and kissing. A couple of weeks later, I got a "Dear John" letter. It destroyed me emotionally, and my mom asked if I was sick. Judy had dated lots of guys, and she didn't want to make a commitment. Mostly Judy wanted to see the world. Anyway, there were very few girls in Alaska. I sent gifts to Judy at Christmas each year and attempted to communicate. Nothing happened until February of my last year in Alaska. I received two letters from Judy. I was living in a tent in Central Alaska and mail was not frequent. Wow!! We started communicating. I invited her to my sister Marilyn's wedding in Ogema in July, and she came. I left the Army in August and drove from Alaska to Minnesota. Judy was teaching near Minneapolis, and I visited her every evening. I read poetry by the lake during the day and we shared poetry in the evening. I'm sure we read "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Also, my favorite book is "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran. His section on marriage is profound. He is talking about keeping your own identity in marriage and states, "And the oak tree and cypress grow not in each other's shadow." We traveled to Judy's parents' home in St. Cloud. We stayed up all Saturday night and at 6 AM Sunday morning, I proposed to her without talking to myself or anyone else and had no engagement ring. At our 55th wedding anniversary, Judy explained

why she chose me. She said because I had character and that I read poetry. After a pause, she said “yes.” We planned our wedding for the next June, and I was off to University of Chicago for an MBA degree.

We honeymooned near Duluth at a cabin on the Gunflint Trail and stayed a couple days, and then stayed a couple more days at our family cottage on White Earth Lake. In the evening, my mom shooed everyone away so we would have privacy. Becky was probably conceived at White Earth. We started out following our Catholic Church rules with no active contraception. Lo - we had three kids in three years, and Judy was nursing. We decided we didn't want to follow some of my aunts and uncles with a dozen kids.

We have very different personality styles. Judy is very expressive, and I tend to be more analytical and pondering. She was very patient as I learned how to parent and to be open to her ideas. She has a spontaneous laugh and is the life of a gathering. She can easily talk to anyone. We are awesome lovers and that is a most awesome blessing. She is very observant and insightful in discerning the needs of each of our children and grandchildren. She is extremely capable. After our youngest was in grade school, Judy attended De Anza Community College majoring in photography and was the top student of about 22,000 students. She started a photography business and was very successful doing 600 weddings and lots of portraits over the years. As I was near retirement, we decided to live in Sonoma County to be near our first grandchild. Judy spent almost a year looking for property. She found an almost five acre property and said I had to see it immediately. Our son Joey had already seen it. I brought along a shovel and found the dirt to be very good. It had 23 Valley Oak trees. After pondering for a bit, we accepted their offer on the spot with no negotiating. Then Judy designed the most beautiful family friendly house in the world. I remember our builder, Maurie D. who was an ordained minister. We asked him to put the Chi Rho (cross) from our wedding cake at the highest point of the roof. He also blessed our house with maybe 40 workers holding hands. It is an awesome family and friends gathering place. We are very blessed.



Judy and Joe wedding picture



Judy at San Francisco 49ers Game - 2022



See Joe and Judy 55th Anniversary at **Movies/DVD section 2.10** on the website.

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.11 Family - Cupertino Life

When we first moved to California, we lived in a two bedroom apartment in Palo Alto that I chose because Judy came a month or so later with our daughter Becky. We had our second child, Mary, after 14 months. We started looking for a place to buy. We started in Los Altos. Joe found out his HP division was moving to Santa Clara. Judy didn't like the name "Sunnyvale." We found a two story, five bedroom house in Cupertino near the newly opened De Anza College. The house had a large family room, as the garage had previously been converted into a family room, and a small unattached garage had been built in the back. The family room turned out to be Judy's photography studio (luck).

Judy had ideas of getting our kids involved in learning events like Montessori, dance, swimming, etc. At first I was skeptical. Fortunately, Judy persisted and provided our children with many opportunities. We coached girls soccer for probably a dozen years. We had great fun and lots of trophies.

Even though our parents never camped, we camped at least one week every year. We loved Yosemite and Mammoth. We also spent a week in the snow every year. Because we moved a long way from our Minnesota families and we wanted to stay connected, we traveled back to Minnesota every couple of years.

Life got more complicated when Judy became a full time student in photography at De Anza College, and then a professional photographer. Meanwhile, I bought six acres of old apricot orchard near Hollister, CA and would go play outdoors. We also started to buy real estate consisting of single family houses. I decided Judy and I were plenty busy and our kids needed to help. For years I would put up the chores on the refrigerator with mixed results. I finally realized what worked best was when they chose their jobs (brilliant!!). Our daughter Mary just shared the plan: each child was given a \$15 week allowance for the school lunch and work. If they didn't get their work done, no allowance. If they didn't have their work done, they paid Mary to do their work. High school years got a bit challenging. I rode my bike to work and came home starved. Sometimes one of our daughters and Judy would shout each other down at the supper table while I was eating everything in sight. College was much better. I took on a more active role in their college finances and careers.



Joe with Becky



Joe and Judy and the girls



Joe Coaching Soccer



Judy's De Anza Graduation - #1 of ~22,000 Students



1980 Mexico Trip



Grand Canyon - 1980

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.12 Family - Santa Rosa

As Joe neared retirement and our kids were all educated and some married, we decided to look for a place in the country to build a house. Our obvious choice was our six acres of land in Hollister. We started planning and planting trees (cork oak). Mainly because of the birth of a grandchild, we changed our minds and bought a house in Santa Rosa. The house had room for Judy's photography studio. We also purchased some land in Santa Rosa in 2000 (excellent decision). We built a beautiful home on our property and moved into our new house on Royal Court in July of 2005 with a big welcoming party. Even my mom from Minnesota attended.

We have many family events every year.. Judy built a photography studio and shared our house with many professional photography events. We invited alumni from our Minnesota colleges and former Hewlett Packard friends. We are now focusing on our eight grandchildren and their friends. Our daughter Becky does a calendar every year that shows our family activities and highlights our many family events. Just a note: When we have heavy rains, we have three kayaks that our grandkids use to go down Olivet Creek on our property. Judy also participates. We love to hike in the nearby redwoods and go to the beach. On the back lawn we enjoy playing croquet, soccer, spike ball, volleyball, and badminton. At night there usually is a game of cards and storytelling. We love to laugh together.

See **section 2.16 Retirement** in this document and on the website for more photos and details about our property and building our home.

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.13 Family - Children and Grandchildren

We started our married life wanting children. Becky was conceived on our honeymoon. Children arrive with unlimited potential and it is the parents' challenge to provide opportunities and guidance. My wife Judy is an amazing person that finds joy and excitement in challenges and opportunities. As our four children aged, she studied books on child psychology and child raising, visited schools, visited classrooms, talked to friends, and convinced me educating our children outside of school was necessary and appropriate. I grew up in Ogema,

and we had no outside of school activities (except for an excellent 4 H program). We had high expectations that our children do their best in school. When a teacher did an excellent job with one of our children, I would personally give them a “Thank You” card and a sizable check for dinner. Judy did an amazing job of taking our children to various colleges and helping with the application processes. It really paid off as our three oldest went to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, one of the best public colleges in the US and maybe the world, and our son did well at Sonoma State. He found his life partner and had a grandchild that helped us decide to live in Sonoma County.

Becky:

Becky (Rebecca) was born nine months after our wedding at the University of Chicago Lying-in Hospital. It was a miserable experience as the doctor botched the anesthesia, and Judy had headaches for months. Becky was baptized at Saint John’s, my alma mater, on our way to California. She was a happy, spontaneous child and very alert. Her eighth grade year was a challenge as she had braces, headgear, glasses, and frizzy hair. High school was great, and she was the co-captain of the Twirling Flags team and probably knew most of the 400 students in her class. She and her two sisters attended Cal Poly. The school offered a spring internship in London, England. All three of our daughters studied in London, and we purchased Eurail tickets so they could tour Europe. Becky got a master’s degree in history at San Diego State, traveled to Europe again, met Dave Lorenz while waiting tables, got married, and had a son Josiah. They live in Oregon.



Becky’s Family



Becky’s Family

Mary:

Mary liked clothes and being pretty. She was very organized and a good worker at a young age. Mary did well in high school, but her junior year was challenging. The night before signups were required, she told us about an alternate school program called “CEBAS” and one of her friends was going. The next day Judy talked to Mary’s friend’s mom, and I visited the CEBAS school. We both agreed it was just the school for her and had lots of hands-on classes. We had to buy another car as Mary still had to attend some classes at her regular school. She came out as a top student and with that confidence, and organization skills, she was ready for life. She married a high school friend and unfortunately got divorced. After several years, she married Frank Roller and had two sons: Nate and Tyler. Frank has two sons from a previous marriage: Ryan and Will. She is an

excellent third grade teacher and loves teaching. She has a plan for the most challenging students to succeed. They live in Cupertino, California.



Mary's Family



Mary's Family

Amy:

Amy was our third child in three plus years. She was easy going, loved everyone, and everything. She had an imaginary friend called "Tinny" that lived in a "Mopartment house." She had a bad lisp until she was in sixth grade. We enrolled her with a myofunctional therapist and after a year of exercises, she was cured. Her best friend was our neighbor Jimmy McMillan. They were dreamers. She was not picky about clothes as she wore the same dress to several high school proms. She had lots of friends and was kind to everybody. Amy was an excellent student. She did two back to back internships at a local electronics company. After college, she applied to seven companies and was given offers at all. She chose Hewlett Packard in Boise, Idaho. I worked for HP for 37 years. She met Mike Edmondson at Cal Poly, and he moved to Boise. They were married and have three children: Rachel, Emily, and Jennay.



Amy and her daughters



Amy's Family - Thanksgiving 2022

Joey:

We were hoping for a boy, but we had the name "Rachel" ready. The day Joey was born, I put out a blue flag in front of our house signaling we had a boy! He got his sisters to do a lot of his homework. He liked everything to be perfect. In his early years playing soccer he would cry easily. Water polo gave him confidence. He had excellent friends. His turning point was a summer camp called Super Camp. His second year he became a leader and learned how to motivate himself and the students. Joey and I enjoyed duck hunting for almost five years at the HP Duck Club. He is a much better shot than I am. He did very well in soccer and chose Sonoma State to study and play soccer. He quit soccer as he didn't like the player atmosphere. He played club volleyball in college. Joey was very athletic. He majored in city planning and discovered he could not stand endless meetings. He joined a construction company as a laborer and learned the trade. About ten years ago, he and a friend started a construction company called "Bayside Builders." They have done very well building and remodeling high end homes in Marin County, north of San Francisco. In college he met his sweetheart Belinda Mulroy. They married after college and had our first grandchild named Katie. Two years later, Anna was born. They live near us in Rohnert Park.



Joey's Family 2014



Joey's Family 2023



Thanksgiving Family Photo 2023

On website see additional: **Photos Documents Movies/DVD**

2.14 Work - HP/My Businesses

Efficient work was my favorite quest along with fun times. My parents worked very hard and expected us kids to help. We had garden chores like pulling weeds and picking potato bugs. We also helped with yard work and canning vegetables for the winter. We were never asked if we wanted to work; it was expected. I got good at being a handyman in my teenage years. My dad got very busy at the bank and other commitments. He passed projects on to me. I was not an expert, but I could do a lot and that gave me confidence for future work like maintaining cars, an orchard, our house and multiple rentals. I had a motto I tried to pass on to our kids: "Work is work; Fun is Fun; and Work is Fun." Under sink plumbing is the worst, and exterior spray house painting is the best.

I was blessed to get a job at Hewlett-Packard. The founders were employee focused and were actively involved in employee events. I was employee number 6,149 and the company grew to over 100,000 when I retired after 37 years. I started as computers were starting to be used in cost accounting. I had many jobs from a major executive position to lots of process analyst jobs. I was best on projects where I was involved in strategic planning and at the same time testing the strategy with end users' involvement. I thoroughly enjoyed working with people.

Years into my career at HP, I was in the wrong place and got promoted to a high level management position and was also the head of HP US Computer Leadership group. I had minimal relations with my boss. At the same time I was very involved helping raise a family, major volunteering at our church, and two startup community service organizations. It was the "Peter Principal." I got fired and demoted, and I eventually found

meaningful work at HP where I was successful and in those days got frequent stock options and raises. I would always ask hard questions and was not afraid of detailed work and analysis.

I have many friends at HP. After moving to Santa Rosa, I have organized several HP reunions and attended several retirement picnics.

Following are ventures/businesses outside of my HP Job:

- 1) Real Estate investment in 1975: A member of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, Barney M. asked if we wanted to join a limited partnership of 10 people that invested in five properties for 10 years. We cashed in the investment in 1985 and received enough funding to pay for most of our three daughters' college educations.
- 2) In 1975 we bought six acres of land off Lone Tree Road in Hollister, CA. It had 600 barely commercial Blenheim apricot trees. The previous owner pruned the trees. Unfortunately there was a major frost and he lost the crop. Hollister was my way to get back to my roots of living in the country (Ogema). Every couple months I would spend a Saturday in the country. I set up an irrigation system, planted fruit trees and cork oak trees, and built a shed to store stuff. When Joey was older, he would hunt doves and bring friends to drive my old car in the orchard. We had plans to move to Hollister and had rough house plans. Fortunately, we had a grandchild on the way and Judy presented me with 37 reasons to build in Santa Rosa. We sold the land and did a like kind exchange for the land in Santa Rosa.
- 3) In 1975, with the advice of my HP manager, we bought a rental house in Cupertino about three blocks from our house. We were awful at choosing renters and had lots of problems. Our daughter Mary complained about having to help clean up the messes. I told her to find the next renter. She did, and it was the worst. The boy's father owned a beer delivery service, and I got lots of midnight calls from the neighbors. Anyway, we decided to sell Pacifica and do a like kind exchange to rental properties for our children. Mary decided to live at Pacifica and had renters to help pay her mortgage.
- 4) We bought a rental property on Homestead Avenue in Hollister and had a local real estate person manage the renters. The house was cheaply built and an earthquake messed up the tile roof. My cousin Bud, Joey, and friend Terel helped with repairs and landscaping. We sold it when we moved to Santa Rosa.
- 5) A bit later we bought a really nice new house on Trieste Avenue in Hollister and did major landscaping. When we moved to Santa Rosa, we sold it. The same tenants lived in the house and kept it up.

I did careful analysis for all of the above investments. I did a 20 year spreadsheet, assumed 5% growth, assumed a fixed interest loan with a plan to pay off in 15 years, and assumed minimum negative cash flow. We were lucky beyond any expectations. I, with the help of our kids and Bud Travers, did most of the maintenance. This is how we were able to buy 4 ½ acres of beautiful land in Santa Rosa and build an awesome house that Judy designed.

My wife Judy's photography business: When Joey was in preschool, Judy decided to become a photographer and studied at the local De Anza Junior College about two blocks from our house. Her business was Judy Tembrock Photography. She did very well and loved it. I was her business partner and because she had employees, I had to get insurance, Workers Comp, Social Security, taxes, etc. I was the last backup and occasionally had to be her assistant and change film.

Another business I had was our vineyard. See **section 2.16 Retirement** in this memoir and on the website for more details about our vineyard and wine making.



Joe's Chair at the Original Hewlett Garage
(First HP Instrument Built Here)



HP Programming Card Deck



Hollister Land - Bud's Truck w/ Apricot Drying Trays
(Beer in right hand, irrigation parts in left hand)

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.15 Volunteering

With my parents' guidance, I volunteered to be a Mass server at a young age. I think I was always a bit sensitive to someone in need. St. John's University gave me a real awareness that sharing and helping others were the most meaningful parts of loving God and loving your neighbor. I led a group of Johnnies and Bennies that volunteered at the St. Cloud Children's Hospital on Saturday mornings. I remember a little boy called Gale, and I would hold his hand as we went to a movie. After my first year getting used to college, I helped

with the international business students. The friends who I remember were Peter K., Alphonsis O., and Tadashi Y. I also was the lead of St. John's Young Christian Students (YCS). I attended a national YCS conference in a rural suburb of Chicago. My senior year I helped organize YCS meetings between St. John's, St. Ben's, and St. Cloud State. That is where I met my future spouse Judy Brandl.

I believe sharing is a habit. I was the leader of **St. Joseph of Cupertino Outreach** for over 30 years. We had extra resources and were very willing to share. One of our missions was visiting shut-ins. We started at Agnew's Insane Asylum with monthly visits. Then we visited Pleasant View Convalescent Home in Cupertino for many years. We also visited the Veterans' Hospital in Mountain View every month for almost thirty years. I enjoyed bringing our four children and giving them an example of sharing and caring. The elderly and shut-ins loved the small children.

In the early 1970's, I joined a group of social workers and other interested people in forming a group called "**Cupertino Roundup**." The object of the group was to help communication between existing social programs, and the needy. The City of Cupertino advanced some seed funds. We rented some office space and hired a director. I was on the early board. After several years, we ran out of funds. The board president, Barbara R., an attorney named Paul K., and I met at HP at lunch and became a non-profit organization and started up again. Eventually the name was changed to **West Valley Community Services**. I was mainly involved with providing "chits" from St. Joseph Outreach to be administered by their staff. We provided about \$500 a month for gas, clothes, prescriptions, etc. I was not a good judge of character and did not have the time or training for case management. That is why I supported West Valley Community Services to provide professional administration and caring for the underprivileged. I was involved in a major building project for a community center and 24 affordable housing units called "Vista Village."

Outreach had extra furniture, and I delivered it to Louise Benson at her home in San Jose. She was starting a non-profit called **Sacred Heart Community Service**. I volunteered to be on the original board. Its goal was to help the nitty gritty poor. I was on the board for about thirty years. After Louise died, the board hired an extremely competent Executive Director, Barbara Z. After a board battle with some of the original board members, I was elected board chair. There were extreme board tensions as we attempted to buy a site and build a community center. The board split and the remaining board supported Barbara Z., and we continued our roles. Barbara, with the help of a board member, persuaded some excellent people to serve on the board capital committee. The project was successfully completed with enthusiastic commitment of contractors, staff, and volunteers. We marched down First Street with a band and police escort when we opened our new building at 1381 South First Street, San Jose. We did the six million dollar project within budget, on time, and had a million dollars in the bank. I am not a dynamic leader. I never give up on a good cause, and I prayed for guidance and wisdom. Before the pandemic, Sacred Heart Community had 10,000 volunteers and greatly expanded its social justice ministries. At the time of this writing, I am working with the former executive director Barbara Z., and Kathie S., a former board member on our founding history.

As my health permits, I plan to help recruit volunteers for a major expansion of our local **Catholic Charities**. They just moved into a 53 million dollar community center. I was involved in the initial phases of the project. They plan to help decrease local homelessness by one half in Sonoma County.

I also volunteered at HP with United Way. I developed a computer program with an agency that listed all the non-profits in Santa Clara County.

We coached our girls soccer teams for over 12 years. One of our team names was "Tembrock's Tremblers." I would take off from work early twice a week to practice. We won most of our games. Every other year when

our daughter Amy and Chris P. were on our team, we were unbeatable. Judy was excellent in putting players in the right positions. We celebrated at Farrell's ice cream store and had an ice cream "Zoo" when we won a big game or a tournament.

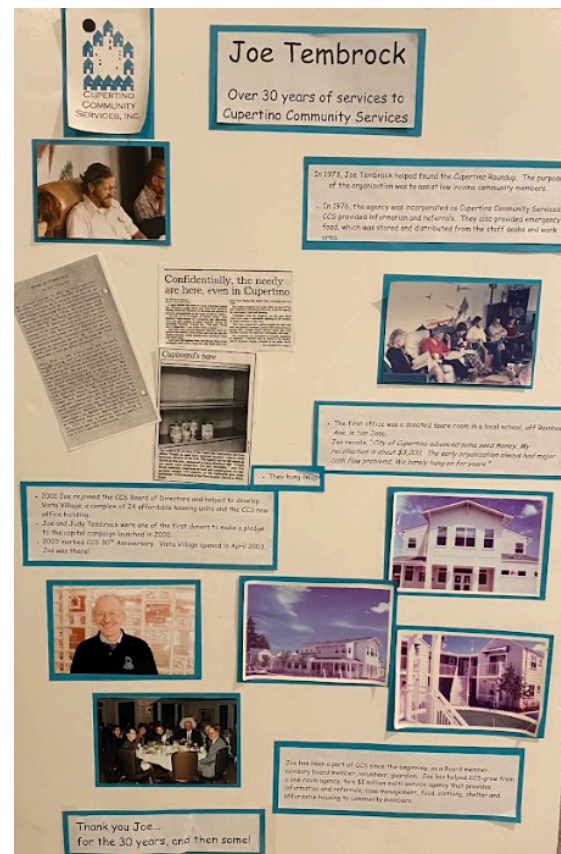
These last few years I have helped to write the Historical documents for Sacred Heart Community Service and West Valley Community Services.

For more information do a web search, or go to these links for the following sites:

- Sacred Heart Community Service, San Jose, California
 - Main website: <https://www.sacredheartcs.org/>
 - [History of Sacred Heart Community Service](#)
- West Valley Community Services, Cupertino, California
 - Main website: <https://www.wvcommunityservices.org/>
 - [History of West Valley Community Services](#)
- Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, California
 - Main website: <https://www.srcharities.org/>



Sacred Heart Community Service Recognition



Cupertino Community Services

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

2.16 Retirement

I retired from HP when I was about 64 years old, having worked for about 37 years. HP was an excellent company for most of my time but started splitting up in the late 1990s, and it wasn't the same company. They were very generous in their retirement package to me.

In 2002 we left Cupertino after 35 plus years. In 2004 we held a retirement/farewell party at Sacred Heart Community Service inviting our Group from St. Joseph of Cupertino, personal friends, Cupertino Community Service friends, Sacred Heart Community friends and family. Barbara Z. was the planned MC. She was unable to attend, so our daughter Becky Lorenz did an excellent job in her place.

We decided to sell all our real estate and buy some land in the Sonoma country by Santa Rosa and build a new house that would be welcoming to our four kids, their spouses, eight grandkids, friends, and community organizations. We succeeded beyond expectations. Judy, with the help of our daughter Amy and her husband Mike, got their architect friend, Paul W. from Cal Poly, to design our house. He and Judy spent hours getting the maximum usable space and absolute beauty in our home. Judy chose every window, room and door knob of our beautiful place. Our house is an awesome place of welcome and fun. We have enjoyed many visitors and professional groups. We also did maximum landscaping as I learned about water systems. We have about 30 irrigation zones excluding the vineyard.

I have always loved to grow things. Luther Burbank said there is no better place to grow things than Sonoma County. We have over 80 roses and hundreds of unique plants in many irrigated beds on our property in Santa Rosa. Anyway, I took grape growing and wine making classes at our excellent Junior College. I have 630 vines of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir. I sell to home winemakers. My vineyard and wine are identified as "23 Oaks" in recognition of the 23 Valley Oaks on our property. I gradually acquired wine making equipment and testing equipment for making wine. Because of health issues, I have stopped making wine. My last bottlings of 2021 are excellent, especially the Zinfandel.

The complexity of our home and yard are challenging as we enter the next phase of our life. I am having some major health issues with low red blood count. We are starting to evaluate options of hiring people to do yard maintenance and vineyard management. We want to stay at our current place as long as possible. We have had an awesome 18 years in paradise at 241 Royal Court.

When someone asks, "How are you?" My consistent answer is "Today is a good day." If I know the person is spiritually alive, I will say "Heaven is now." My granddaughter Katie asked me, "How can that be Grandpa Joe? Is there suffering in heaven?" After reflecting I replied, "There is joy in heaven and joy here on earth." My belief is that God loves me and what I am trying to do in this world. I also believe that individuals that chose evil will live with the evil they choose (an example would be Hitler). I may make personal mistakes, but I know God is already welcoming me to eternal life. I am not afraid of death; I just have some things I would like to accomplish while I still have my faculties. I am working on a transition plan in asking our children to help me organize the complexities of my current life. Joey has already started taking care of our finances. Becky is helping with my medical challenges and my memoir pictures. Mary is an awesome organizer of my stuff. Amy is helping with my memoir and computer work. I reflect on my personal saint, my Grandma Sophia Krier. Grandma could hardly hear in her later life and lived with and supported a dogmatic husband, J.P. Krier. Her work was a work of love and caring. On a practical level I am trying to have meaningful relationships with our extended family and organizations that I support. We have a policy that "Grandkids" fly free to visit us. I try to be extra available to our eight grandchildren.

As I age, I am losing close friends. My best friend, except for my immediate family, was Bud Travers, Judy's first cousin. Our families did so much over the past almost 60 years. Bud and I loved to work together. We did a lot of camping, backpacking and projects, like rental landscaping and wine bottling. We never sweated the small stuff. I called him "Partner." We also loved to win in a game called "Pedro" that we played against our wives. Bud died suddenly this last year at age 83. A neighbor, Chuck Jones, also died last year. He raised commercial grapes and made wine. He helped me a lot with practical advice on my vineyard.



241 Royal Court - Before Building



23 Oaks Vineyard



Joe Pressing Red Wine



Joe and Bud Travers Bottling Wine



Joey and Frank Wine Crush



Wine Crush 2021



Last wine bottling - Josiah and Dave 2022



Last wine bottling - Joey, Louise and Jeremy 2022



Last Wine Bottling - 2022 AM



Last Wine Bottling - 2022 PM

On website see additional: **Photos**

3 Blessings

3.1 Caring and Trust in People

My grandmother Sophia Krier was a very hard working, caring person. In addition to supporting my Grandfather J.P. Krier with farm work, she did all the cooking, gardening, clothes making, and household organizing. She never complained. She had a deep personal faith that helped bring my grandfather back to church after his daughter Marie married outside of the church. I spent time at the farm when I was young (4th grade). I was taught some dirty sayings by another friend and shared them with my Grandma. What are the favorite things in a closet? "Slipper pants and jumper." What are the favorite parts of a stove? "Lift her leg and poker." Grandma just told me that was naughty without putting me down. She was the best cook of bacon grease cookies. She is my spiritual saint.

My mom, Margaret Krier, grew up on a farm in Callaway, Minnesota, about 10 miles south of Ogema. Grandpa Krier believed in education, and he loaned his two daughters money to go to college. My mom graduated from teachers college at age 16, and two years later she was principal of the Callaway grade school. After my dad's accident, my mom spent seventeen years lovingly caring for him. My dad was epileptic and would have occasional grand mal seizures while driving; mom would take the wheel and control the car.

My dad, Ray Tembrock, had empathy for people in need. He quietly helped people at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Every year he would bring a food basket to a marginal farmer Les V. and every year we would get a cleaned goose for our Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. My dad treated people fairly and compassionately, even if his words were sometimes sanctimonious..

3.2 Positive Relationships with Strong Women

In a German family, the man was always in control, except my mom knew how to influence decisions. She was an excellent role model to me as a very capable woman using her influence in a positive way. She was Parish Council chair when they built the new church and on a first name basis with the bishop. After my dad died, she became a world traveler and took her children on many trips. Being able to work with strong capable women helped me with leadership relationships with some of the non-profits that I helped found and other non-profit organizations that I support.

3.3 Sharing - People Who Lived With Us and Other Sharing

People who have lived with us:

In the late 1960's we bought a large five bedroom house in Cupertino, CA. It had a couple bedrooms that were very small. Our three kids were in one bedroom. In addition to renting out a room to college students, we welcomed guests. Looking back, we probably had 20 people living with us over the years. Judy's brother Gary stayed for an extended period, and my brother Jim stayed several times. Our babysitter from Palo Alto, Louise, spent a few of her teen years with us. Judy's sister Sue stayed with us for several years and was a great help.

A couple of years ago, our house cleaner needed a place to stay. The family lived in our house for about a year and a half. On April, 30th 2022, we were invited to Primo's 56th birthday in a local park. Over 150 people were there to celebrate. I was most thankful that their son, Junior, has a job and a beautiful girlfriend and has self confidence. We made a difference in their lives, and they helped us a lot. Primo and Johnny help with yard work and my vineyard. This is truly a win-win for both of us.

Our saddest experience was a young girl who was about 23 years old. About five years ago she showed up at our parish, homeless. Our pastor asked if she could stay at our place for one night. That led to three to four months. I helped her get clothes at Goodwill and a bike. We went on many bike rides. She was keeping a spiritual journal. When we told her she had to leave in a month or so, she lost it and became violent after attending a social event at our church. At Christmas she called me and thanked me for trying to help her. Two months later she was found dead in a car near her parents house. She had major psychological and addictive issues, and I was unaware. I gave a bit of a eulogy at her funeral.

Following is a summary list of some of the people who lived with us in Cupertino and Santa Rosa:

Cupertino:

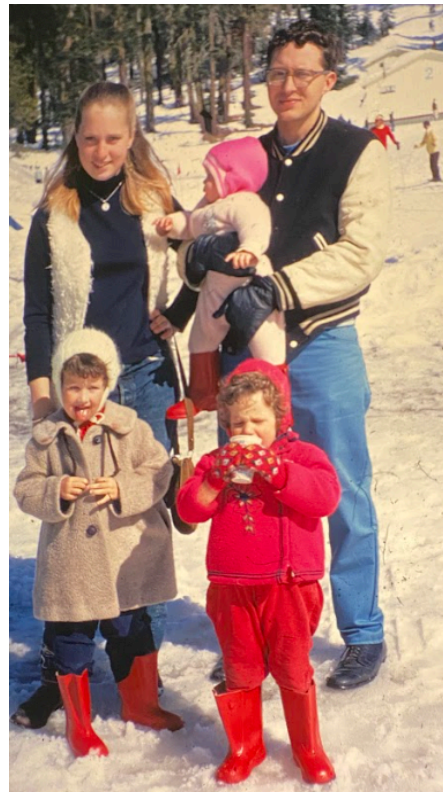
- 1) Drunk beer drinker (Judy kicked him out while I was on a business trip.)
- 2) Teenager from a correctional facility
- 3) A guy who played a guitar
- 4) Mario P. from Peru (two years while studying at DeAnza College)
- 5) Louise M. (three years while attending Homestead High. I even went rappelling with Louise in the Pinnacles park near Hollister - not my favorite event.)
- 6) Gary Brandl (Judy's brother lived with us after the war in Vietnam.)
- 7) Jim Tembrock (Joe's brother stayed several times.)
- 8) Emily C. (Louise's friend)
- 9) S. family
- 10) Sue Brandl (Judy's sister lived with us for 3 years.)
- 11) Judith from Ireland (Mary's friend - She went with us to Mammoth.)
- 12) Jimmy M. (neighbor and Amy's friend)
- 13) Steve M.
- 14) Nancy D.
- 15) Margaret
- 16) Nick V. (Stayed with us three years while in high school)
- 17) Nikki Travers (stayed while studying at De Anza - Judy's cousin's daughter)
- 18) Nicole Tembrock (my brother Bill's daughter) stayed with us for a summer and worked at a Greek restaurant)

Santa Rosa:

- 1) Marcela (our house cleaner) and family (stayed for a year and a half)
- 2) Brittany (stayed about three months)
- 3) Rachel Edmondson (our grandchild stayed two summers and worked at a local Zipline place)



Mario P.



Louise

People who we have helped:

We have helped lots of people with loans, both big and small, from thousands to hundreds of thousands. All were paid back except a major loan to my first cousin in Minnesota. We also gifted our Cupertino real estate property to our four children as a down payment for their houses. With Judy's strong desire to help now, rather than our children getting our estate after we die, we also decided to significantly fund our eight grandchildren's college education. Sharing is part of our nature and our beliefs.

Following are individuals or families that we attempted to help in special ways:

A friend of mine at Hewlett Packard bought a new house and needed help with landscaping. We loaned him some money, and I helped on the project. He repaid the loan.

Judy's sister lived with us for about three years. She got a good job with the county voting registrar. We loaned her money to buy a condo, and she repaid us.

I kept in touch with a college friend, Joe. He retired from a major job at a big bank in New York, bought 90 acres of country land in upstate New York, and built an awesome house. He ran out of money and his health was failing. We loaned him a lot of money. He was able to sell the property and repaid us in full. We attended his son's wedding back East and my friend Joe's funeral at St. John's.

We have been helping a family since we bought our home in Cupertino. This family with five children had many challenges and needed assistance. I helped him get some landscaping jobs, but he didn't have the skills for successful work. I had to fix the irrigation on a big job. Their eldest son had brain cancer for over 10 years and

died. They became citizens after years of encouragement. One of his daughters has a successful career. His youngest daughter was in a terrible car accident and spent months in the hospital. She is at home and has a five year old daughter. We continue to support them.

My first cousin had and has major financial issues. His mother was a mentor to me as I worked at a fancy resort in Minnesota that the family owned. I also spent a summer living in their house in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Anyway, we saved three of his properties from foreclosure and loaned him a bunch of money. We now have foreclosed on two of his properties. This is a case where we should have foreclosed 10 years ago.

A good friend of mine from church was dying, and I agreed to be her executor. Her daughter was designated to inherit her house. I sold her house and bought her an apartment. She has severe mental illnesses and was very difficult to work with. I spent several years of misery and she even said, "I wish you were dead." The bit of good news is, she married a good guy that loves her, she got Social Security disability benefits, and I haven't heard from her in years.

My basic instinct is to help. But upon reflection, there are times I should have evaluated the situation more carefully. I definitely should have been more aware of mental issues. Relationships are very challenging, especially when I have good intentions and don't always take the time to focus on downside risks. Scripture challenges us to be compassionate. Also, something about the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

On website see additional: **Photos Documents**

3.4 Family/Friends/Groups

I am a quiet, organized, people person. Over the years I have been in many groups, generally not as a leader, but someone who listens and cares about people. I maintain separate email directories for some groups (HP, St. Joseph's of Cupertino Group, and Waubun High School) and I have about 350 names on an Excel file that I use to send out our annual Christmas greeting.

I am always interested in maintaining contact with groups that I was or am a member of. The following are examples:

- My high school: Waubun High School, Waubun, MN. We started out with about 40 graduates and now there are about 20. I keep a roster and we have met about every five years. Lately we have been meeting at Cedar Crest on beautiful White Earth Lake.
- Our St. Joseph of Cupertino Church group of about a dozen couples: We couldn't think of a name so we are the "Group." We formed as part of Vatican II. We had annual events like Christmas tree chopping, Mass by the campfire, trips to Hawaii and Mexico. There are just five of us left as we were the youngest.
- Hewlett-Packard: Every other year or so, we would have a gathering at our place in Santa Rosa with 10 to 20 attending. The pandemic has temporarily stopped this event. I keep the roster.
- St. John's and St. Ben's alumni gatherings: We provide our place and the schools gather people. In the past we have had presidents of both colleges at our place. Again, the pandemic has temporarily stopped the event.

- George Seeber's weekly spiritual group: George is a Jesuit priest that left the order in his 50's and is now approaching 90. He has much wisdom. Because of the pandemic, we meet weekly on Zoom, and I set up the sessions. There are about 12 members in the group.



St. Joseph of Cupertino - Discussion Group

On website see additional: **Photos Movies/DVD**

3.5 Travel/Adventures

I grew up in Ogema. Most of my childhood travel was within ten miles of our home. It was eight miles to my Krier grandparents near Callaway, ten miles to our cabin on White Earth Lake, and five miles to Waubun High School. When we moved to California, nature and travel became awesome. We soon discovered the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. This tied in with our goal of doing fun family things. Looking back and reviewing the many pictures of our adventures, we made the right decision to do fun family events together. Many times we also invited friends of our kids. We found adding a couple of kids significantly reduced the fighting among our kids. Almost every year our family spent a week in the summer camping in the Sierras. I will never forget our first trip to Yosemite. Our kids were complaining about the long ride. We turned a corner and saw Yosemite Valley. I couldn't move because I was so much in awe. In the winter we rented a cabin and played in the snow. Something led me to backpacking in the mountains. As our kids got older, we did events together, like our climbing of Half Dome in Yosemite when Joey was only six. The same year we hiked part way down the Grand Canyon and exhausted some of our kids. I think I had to carry Joey part of the way up. When we decided to live in California, we made a commitment to visit our families in Minnesota every several years. We drove several times and flew most of the time. I only had two weeks of vacation a year, so it was a challenge to use my time carefully. Several times when I returned to work at HP, I had a different job as late summer was very busy in the Finance Department. As our children were starting college, we began our international travels.

Travels:

- Family trips to Minnesota/Wisconsin every couple years to keep in touch with our families
- Winter trips to Hal Chouinard's cabin by Lake Tahoe (Hal worked for HP)
- Mammoth campground in the Sierra's for about 20 years with the Millers and our cousins the Travers
- Family trips to Yosemite most summers and occasionally in the winter
- Climbing Half Dome in Yosemite five times, beginning in my 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, and 70s
- Winter and summer trips to Chet's cabin on Lake Tahoe. (Chet worked as a photographer's assistant for Judy Tembrock Photography)
- Almost annual trips to Hawaii (every four years we take one of our children and family - usually to the island of Kauai)
- Joe - three trips with the Brandl men fishing in Canada
- We have traveled to all US states except Maine, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee.
- Holy Lands in 1980 with my parents
- Acapulco with my parents (Joe only)
- Mexico including the Grand Canyon (for Christmas, 1980)
- Bryce and Zion parks in Utah and Mesa Verde Park in Colorado
- England and Scotland (visited our college student Becky as she studied a quarter in England, 1987)
- Group trip to Molokai in Hawaii with Father Mark (visited the leper colony, 1992)
- Family snow and ski trips to Bogus Basin in Boise, Idaho (many winter trips)
- Trafalgar trip with our moms to Europe (1996)
- Belize and Guatemala (We followed my HP boss's itinerary, 1996)
- Argentina, Chile, Brazil to visit my sister Marilyn and her husband Bob (He had a job with Dow Chemical in Argentina (1999)
- Turkey with Fr. Martin from our Ogema parish (1999)
- Group cruise through the Panama Canal from Florida to San Diego (2000)
- Group Mexico trip (2002)
- Puerto Rico with my brother Bill and his wife Kathy (Judy and Kathy taught school in Puerto Rico for two years after college, 2008)
- Two week visit to Guadalajara, Mexico to visit John and Amanda Tembrock as they adopted a child (2006)
- Spain (2013)
- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand (2016)
- Cuba (group from St. John's, 2017)
- Mexico, Cancun and Isla Mujeres (2017)
- Greece and Egypt (2018)
- East Coast tour of the early presidents mansions and Washington DC (2019)
- St. Petersburg, Moscow, Pompey and Washington, DC (trip canceled due to COVID, was planned for 2020)
- Scholars Tour (Emily, Nate, and Anna 2022)
- Train ride to Colorado to visit Bill and Kathy (2023)



Amphitheater at Ephesus, Turkey



Judy on a Camel in Egypt

*On website see additional: **Photos***

3.6 Joe's Recreation - Fishing/Mountain Climbing/Backpacking/Skiing

I grew up fishing. We had access to my grandparent's cabin on White Earth Lake. My dad loved to fish before he got too busy. Even Ogema Lake in town had fish. Following are fish that I remember catching:

- 5 pound 12 ounce largemouth bass in White Earth Lake
- Speared an 18 pound northern pike in White Earth Lake. It is mounted and on the wall in the cabin
- 18 pound king salmon on the Nanilcheck River in Alaska
- 23 pound northern pike on Brandl Canada fishing trip on Small Lake
- 12 pound wild steelhead in the Russian River
- ~4 pound shad on the Sacramento River (proclaimed the largest shad ever caught)
- Judy and I caught eight steelhead on the Salmon River in Idaho. (We had a guide and one was 10 pounds.)
- 225 pound yellowfin tuna with Dave and Josiah in Hawaii
- 22 pound king salmon off Bodega Bay in California

My brother Bill moved to Colorado and climbed all the 14,000 ft. mountains, some more than once. I climbed some of those with him. I sometimes went mountain climbing and backpacking, and left Judy home to take care of our growing family. The outdoors of Ogema is still in my blood. Below are the major mountains I climbed:

- Colorado: Sneffels (14,158 ft.) Lower elevations were splendid with flowers. Bill's son John got sick on the way up. I had to carry our son Joey for the last part. Judy got altitude sickness and Joey barfed in Bill's car on the way back. We live at zero elevation and were hiking before we acclimated.
- Colorado: Uncompahgre (14,321 ft.)
- Colorado: Humboldt (14,070 ft.)
- Colorado: Longs (14,259 ft.). We didn't quite reach the peak as we started across the face of the mountain and there was ice. We stopped and turned back as falling off the face would be the end. Another group hiked past us to the top of the mountain, and in 20 minutes were on their way back.
- Colorado: Cameron Cone (11,516 ft.). Jim and I got caught in a major lightning storm and rain. We didn't quite make the peak.

- California: Shasta (14,180 ft.) Took two tries. Climbed with Gary G. who had never climbed a mountain. He didn't quite make it.

Below are some of my backpacking trips:

- California: Kings Canyon - Cedar Grove - Kennedy Pass: two or three day trips: Jim and I hiked, lost our map, and saw a naked lady swimming in a river (she had an escort). I hiked with an HP friend and caught a big rainbow trout. We brought along a bottle of wine that turned out to be vinegar. A larger group of HP friends and I hiked in August and got caught in a heavy snowstorm with no tents. They built a huge fire and tried to sleep by the fire and drank our brandy. We found the map (that we lost on the first trip) and the worst mosquitoes.
- California: Desolation Valley near Lake Tahoe: Hiked in with two HP friends and we were treated with Eggs Benedict by another HP friend on Fallen Leaf Lake (Betty S's husband Harold)
- California: Tuolumne Meadows - Saddle Bag Lake was an easy hike with good fishing.
- California: Yosemite Hetch Hetchy: Bud and I hiked in to meet Joey, Paul W., and his niece. We had to wait several hours for Joey to meet us. There were many mosquitos; we were almost ready to drink our wine. We had a fun time.
- California: Vogelsang Pass off Tioga Pass: Joey, Terel and me. I had to carry their packs on the way up (Candy Asses). We caught fish. Terel got a fish hook in his back that I got out. We had bear problems, and I slept on our food sack (dumb).
- California: Dinkey Lakes: probably three trips. Bud and I hiked to lower Dinkey, fished a bit, experienced a huge lightning storm, got back to the campsite and our sleeping bags were wet. We hiked out to the car, and drove home the same day.
- The final Dinkey Lake trip: We had a big group. Bud messed up and left the tent poles. See the DVD that Joey recorded. My brother Bill and I had the Officer's tent and withstood the rain.
- Final backpacking trip: I hiked with Joey and girls to Emigrant Wilderness. See DVD that Joey recorded Section 3.6 Movies/DVD).

Skiing trips:

- Hal Chouinard's Cabin at Lake Tahoe: This was our first family winter snow. We usually brought along another family and learned how to play in the California snow.
- HP winter skiing at Dewey Point: I remember going down a steep slope and safely crashing. I called up to my buddy, John S., before he started and cautioned him. He ignored my caution and took a nasty fall.
- Bogus Basin in Boise: My daughter Amy and I would cautiously do the cross country "Black Diamond" Runs. I got going too fast and had to sit down to stop. Bogus has a wonderful lodge for cross country, and it's free for ages over 70.



Canada Fishing Trip With the Brandls - Small Lake



22 Pound Northern Pike at Small Lake

*On website see additional: **Photos Movies/DVD***

3.7 Spiritual Life

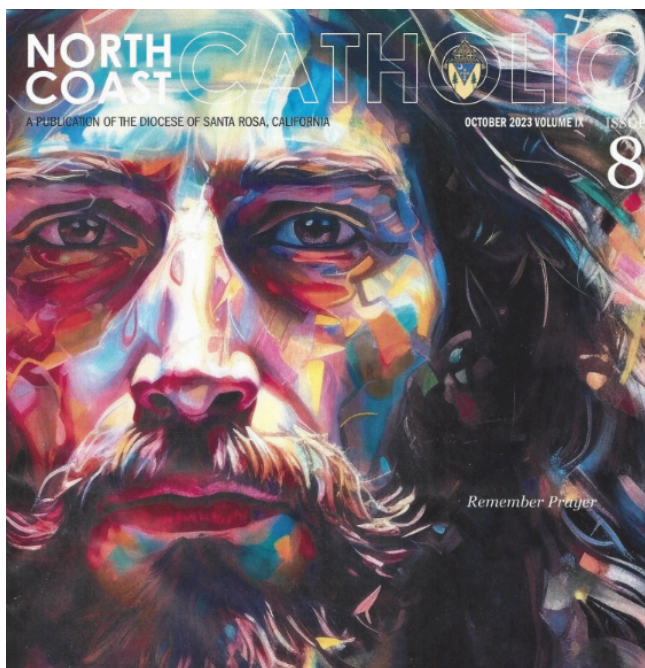
My spiritual life started with very strong Catholic traditions. We prayed the rosary every night, prayed for a religious vocation in our family (Bill and Jim were priesthood students at St. John's), and attended all of our church liturgies. There were many rules in the church, and we attempted to follow them in a positive way. I don't remember complaining about going to church or serving mass or anything about my church. We played priest and Mass as young kids. God was very real to me and still is. We were taught catechism by our parents. After grade school, for two weeks every summer, we were taught religion by Benedictine nuns from Crookston. I was good at memorizing and frequently got awards.

My spiritual life made a huge change at St. John's. My brothers, Bill and Jim, were priesthood students while I was in college. My church became much more than ritual as social justice and community became much more important in my life. As part of Vatican II, our family joined a discussion group in Cupertino called "The Group." It is still going after 50 years. Fr. Mark N. joined our group and participated in several of our daughters' weddings. For many years I, and sometimes Judy, would participate in RECongress in Anaheim every winter. I would get my battery charged with 35,000 Christians alive and excited about their love of God and people.

I currently participate in two Zoom sessions each week. George S., a 90 year old former Jesuit priest, is our discussion group leader. I set up the sessions. We are currently discussing, "The Whole Language - The Power of Extravagant Tenderness" by Greg Boyle. It is the most spiritually exciting and challenging book I have ever read. He founded Homeboy Industries in the gang areas of Los Angeles about 30 years ago, and it is the largest gang recuperation organization in the world. His focus is on tenderness and love and never giving up. There is joy in everything Fr. Boyle does. The other Zoom session is led by Sister D. from our parish. We read and discuss Richard Rohr's daily meditation emails that Sister combines into one document. I am the only male in this group. The two groups have gradually changed my outlook on my church. Jesus' second

commandment is to “Love our neighbor as ourselves.” Unfortunately our local church hierarchy is focused on power, rules, and exclusiveness (Pope Francis excluded). When I observe all our extended families, I am not aware of any young people in our extended family that are active in the Catholic Church. This is very sad and an indication of a dying organization.

I am very concerned about sin and hell being the focus of much of my church. I believe God became a living person in Jesus Christ to show us how to live our humanity. He did not come to be sacrificed to atone for original sin. The prayer of the Archangel Michael about the Devil going about seeking whom he may devour is not Jesus' message of love. Following are two pictures of Christ. The first picture is from our monthly diocesan newsletter. It shows Jesus as stern and demanding. The second picture is “The Risen Christ by the Sea.” This shows love and joy. We need love and joy today to form loving communities that welcome everyone, including young adults who are the future of my church.



Diocean Newsletter Cover



Risen Christ by the Sea

Every evening I read a prayer from “Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter” by John Philip Newell. A sample from Saturday evening: “In our mother’s womb you knew us O God. In our father’s birth and in the birth of his father were our beginnings. At the inception of time and even before time, began your love conceived of our being.”

My personal evening prayer: Praise God for God is good. God maintains existence and provides opportunities. I ask for intercession from all holy people and saints living and dead. I especially ask for intercession from holy people and saints that I personally know: my grandmother Sophia Krier, my dad Ray; my mom Margaret, Louise Benson (founder of Sacred Heart Community Service), Terry Rameriz (board member that died very young), John Brandl (Judy’s brother), Brother Dietrich Reinhard (president of St. John’s University that died very young), and the most current person that died that I know.

Following are notes that I wrote down in preparation for our weekly Richard Rohr Zoom meeting (January 29, 2024):

I believe:

- Jesus is real and is a member of the Trinity.
- Our next life (eternity) is real.
- God creates and maintains existence (nature).
- Eucharist is real.
- I need an organization to help and challenge me to love (our local bishop is failing).
- I believe heaven is now, and I want to live in joy each day.
- I believe all people have the potential to lead lives of joy and to experience a joyful eternity.
- I am maintaining a list of special people in whose lives I will try and make a positive difference.

Two quotes that are meaningful to me:

“All is well; All will be well.” Julian of Norwich (b 1343 d 1416) She lived during two plagues in Europe that killed over half of the population.

Picture of a wood plaque Anna Tembrock made for me for Christmas 2021 of the words of Dom Miquel Ruiz (b 1952) in Mexico:



Dom Miguel Ruiz - Christmas Gift from Anna

On website see additional: **Photos**



St. John's Oblates - Bill, Jim and Joe Tembrock
(Not in photo - Oblate Paul Tembrock)

4 Life Observations

4.1 Health/Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs

Health: In my late 20s I read a fascinating book called “The Incredible Machine” by Time Life. Our body is a complex set of organs that can operate for 80 years if treated properly. In my 40’s I took a rigorous course in nutrition at our local community college. I had to measure my calorie input and exercise for three days and document the results. I also read two pamphlets every month: “Harvard Heart Letter” and “Berkeley Wellness Letter.” I got those after I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation at age 58. My general strategy has been to eat raw oatmeal for breakfast, no sugar snacks or drinks, leftovers for lunch, and a healthy evening meal with lots of vegetables. Until my recent very low blood count, I was extremely healthy even climbing Half Dome in Yosemite, at age 72, for the fifth time. In my 37 years at HP, I took less than two weeks of sick leave and half of that was for a hernia repair.

Alcohol: My parents' culture was to work hard and occasionally party hard. My dad especially liked his beer. It is my observation that after my mom and dad started family planning (no sex most of the month) that caused him to focus on his work and his drinking increased. Anyway, I grew up where there was occasionally lots of heavy drinking. One of my siblings got the worst of family alcohol. At a recent family gathering, he said he started drinking with Dad at age eight. He had many alcohol/drug/ family challenges, and I attribute much to alcohol as a way of life.

My personal experience with alcohol: I loved to drink and rarely got drunk throughout my life. Following are my health issues probably related to alcohol: Eye hemorrhage (I went with my neighbor to his cabin near Lake Shasta and drank some hard liquor. One of my eyes started to bleed, and I was on medication for five years.) For our 50th wedding anniversary, Judy and I stayed at a cabin on the Pacific Ocean, and I drank most of a bottle of wine. I think this started my macular degeneration. I take pills twice a day, and it has been stable. Every couple of months I would go down to my apricot orchard near Hollister. I would spend a day working and drinking beer. I had a routine doctor appointment at about age 58, and my doctor ordered some heart tests. He said my heart expulsion rate was 37% (normal is 50 to 60%), and that I had atrial fibrillation. I was put on several medicines and had my heart undergo cardioversion seven times. They stopped the cardioversions and I can't tell when my heart is in normal sinus rhythm. At age 81 my heart was tested and my heart expulsion rate was in the mid 50% which is normal. For me, I liked alcohol and occasionally drank too much. I remember an event at the cottage when I was in college. I had too much beer and hid out. After a while, I sobered up. Also at an HP work party, I drank too much wine. I rode my bike home and was inebriated. I guess I sobered up by the time I got home. Judy and I were visiting Amy and Mike and went Salmon fishing on the Salmon River in Idaho. I drank some beers before bed and the next day I couldn't pee. I didn't drink much water. We got back to Santa Rosa, and I spent a day in the hospital with a urinary tract infection. Another time, more recently, I went shad fishing on the Sacramento River with Joey and his girls. The same thing happened when I drank some beer/wine and very little water, and then spent the next two days in the hospital with a urinary tract infection. About five years ago after much coaching from my doctor, I agreed to one drink a day. I never did drink much water. Looking back, I think a glass of wine or something with a meal is OK and occasionally a couple of social drinks are OK. I have an Aunt Marie and an Uncle John who were daily heavy drinkers and both lived until their 90's. It was part of the culture. Go to **Documents section 4.1** on the website to see “Harvard Health document-Alcohol and atrial fibrillation” from a recent Harvard Heart Letter (September 2021).

Tobacco: Most of my aunts and uncles on the Tembrock side smoked. Over half of them died from lung cancer or other related illnesses. Tobacco was probably a cause of my dad's heart attack at age 65. He smoked many packs a day and almost always had a cigarette or pipe in his mouth or hands.

Sugar: As I am reviewing my history, I discovered a paper from my daughter Amy about the dangers of consuming too much sugar. Too much sugar is a major cause of obesity and diabetes. I was very cautious by limiting my sugar intake until my recent illness and huge weight loss. My dietitian says to eat everything including sugar to gain weight.

On website see additional: Documents

4.2 Sex

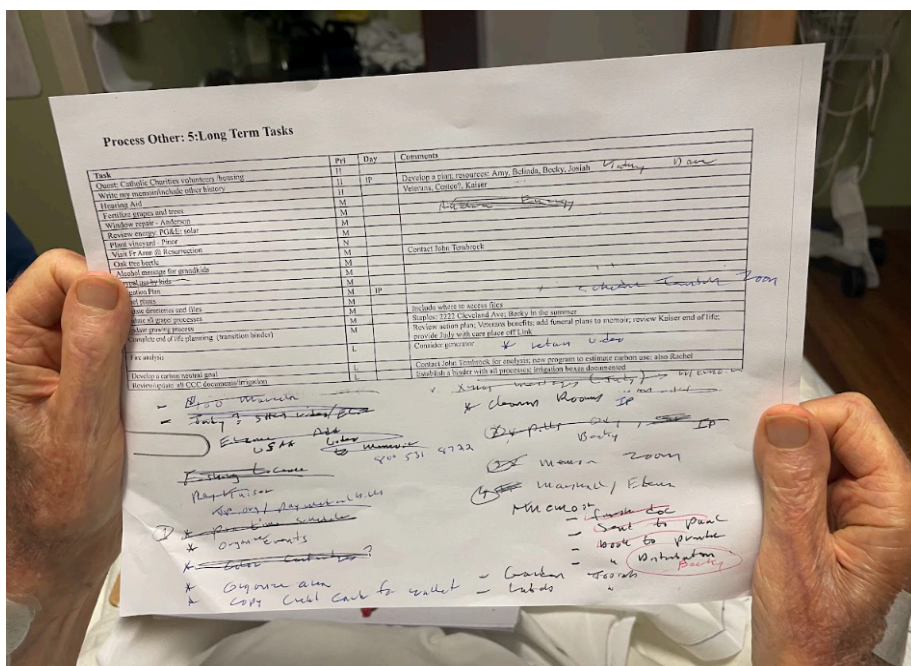
I was born into a very hard working, party loving German family from the "Greatest Generation." We did not have family discussions other than planning work or fun, like games or fishing.

Somewhere around the fourth or fifth grade I started to get horny. I remember writing an awful letter and putting it in my pocket. My mom discovered it. I vividly remember being awakened and confronted with the letter. I think I was crying and said I would never do it again. We all knelt down and prayed. I forgot about it for years. I masturbated a lot in high school and because it was a mortal sin, I had to go to confession every week. In high school, mom gave me a "Red Book" to read about the church's views on sex. I still have the book. Girls and dating were a challenge with me. I was both restrained and on fire. I never had any problems except internally with dreams. In my senior year in college Judy was the first girl I kissed. I am so blessed that I didn't get in trouble with my fantasies.

4.3 Multitasking

I am able to work on many things at the same time. My mom, Margaret, is my model. She could be cooking, canning, mending, helping with school, leading the Ladies Sodality and ready to go out partying at night. My dad, Ray, in addition to running the bank, selling insurance and doing taxes, was the school board head, managed the financial books for the town of Ogema, and was the parish treasurer. He was very good about his many jobs, but wasn't able to easily relax and kick back without alcohol. I know because I worked for him at the bank a bit in high school and for several college summers.

I followed in my parents' footsteps of multitasking: I worked full time, took continuing education classes, was active in our parish, volunteered in the community, coached soccer with Judy, invested and managed real estate, supported Judy's photography business, and helped raise four kids. I was busy and had lots of fun.



Joe at the hospital reviewing "The List" prior to surgery March 31, 2024

On website see additional: **Photos**

4.4 Strategic Outlook/Analytical Approach

My parents and grandparents were very strategic people. They had experienced the “Roaring Twenties,” the horrible Depression, and World War II. They were always preparing for the future, but enjoying the now. In addition to not being afraid of hard work, I also pondered the long term. This is especially true in finances, community organizations, my church and faith, our children’s education, and life opportunities.

A little digression: Almost every year I would do a financial balance sheet and projected cash flow for the next year. I knew I had to understand this as I presented it to Judy who was somewhat bored with it, but I wanted to be able to answer and explain my assumptions. Having some understanding of cash flow, I made some personal strategic living decisions: I would never buy a car to go to work, I carpooled, rode a bike, used buses and trains to work. I also decided to bring my lunch to work and not eat at the cafeteria. I roughly calculated that in 20 years at 5% interest that was \$100,000 tax free. I actively did it for 37 years. Related, I decided not to put money into cars. I had one new car in my life, a VW bug I bought while in college. Until our children were grown and moved out I bought old cars for less than \$1000, and I did some of the maintenance. I even took an auto repair course at Cupertino High School. I changed brakes, plugs, and oil, and even took the heads off a V8 Falcon. We only had one car at that time. I convinced Judy, which wasn't easy, as she was running our growing family (three kids in three years) to have renters. Most renters were OK, and some became family friends. The dynamics and some chaos were a challenge.

4.5 Life Challenges

I am writing this at age 83. I am generally amiable and don't get very concerned about events or stuff. I wore a sweatshirt that said on the front: "Don't sweat the small stuff, see back," and on the back it said, "It's all small

stuff, see front.” I am not clothes conscious. I wear what my wife Judy buys and asks me to wear. As I reflect back on my life, three or four potential life ending events occurred:

- White Earth Lake ice fishing: We were riding in my brother Bill's new Falcon car and going by the Big Island when we felt the front of the car go down in the ice. Supposedly, I got out of the car first. Bob, Paul and Bill followed. We went to the front of the car and the ice chisel indicated there was no ice.
- Alaska almost plane crash: See detailed story in the Alaska section. Anyway, several buddies and I had hired a bush pilot to take us fishing. There was another group camped near us. He took the other group first and ran out of gas and crashed, killing the group and not us.
- In Cupertino Dave Lorenz and I were repairing a lean-to on our garage. I fell head first and luckily hit a garbage can and got a concussion. Dave drove me to the hospital, and I was pronounced OK. We went back home, and I was still in a fog until the phone rang, and then I was back to normal.
- On one of our yearly vacations at Mammoth Lake in the Sierras, we were driving home after a wonderful meal with wine at Farnises. The car was fully loaded and pulling our camper. Everyone was asleep. I passed a car and a car was coming head on. I don't know if it was close, but it might have been.

My current health is definitely a challenge. In 2021/2022 my weight went from around 140 to 111. My oncologist indicated at that rate I would have two or so months to live. Fortunately he started me on Prednisone, and I am now over 130 pounds. I will probably be on a low dose the rest of my life and will have to deal with the mental challenge of too much focus. I am used to being a doer and have lots of skills and tools to do things. I can't do much physical labor because of my diseases including VEXAS, a very rare mutation of the blood. When asked, "How are you?" I always reply, "Today is a good day," and I mean it.

4.6 Social Justice

As I reflect back on my many years, I was aware of social issues. Growing up on a Native American reservation, I observed very poor farmers. I was in contact with people who lived with real poverty. Everyone had a home, and I was not aware of people going hungry in Ogema. I have always tried to be helpful. In grade school we had a teacher teaching two classes. In upper grades, I would help the slow learners while the teacher was teaching the other class. In college I made a point of getting to know international students and to help them get adjusted to a different life and culture. My senior year at St. John's I was elected head of YCS (Young Christian Students). I helped coordinate with St. Ben's and St. Cloud State. I was very involved with our parish in Cupertino, St Joseph of Cupertino. I was on the parish council. This was the time of Vatican II, and I was vice president. We had a conflict with the pastor and our constitution. The role of the vice president was to provide nominees for election. I stated I would not provide nominees unless the conflict was resolved. It wasn't, and the council died. I became involved in a parish ministry called "Outreach." I led it for almost thirty years. As my health permits, I plan to help recruit volunteers for a major expansion of our local Catholic Charities. They plan to decrease local homelessness by one half in Sonoma County.

I believe being active in politics is extremely important. Democracies are very fragile, especially with social media focusing on people's emotions and not on history and facts. I spent a lot of time researching the 2022 elections. I shared the listed document with family and friends and made major financial contributions to candidates that had the probability of winning.

See **section 2.15 Volunteering** in this memoir for more details about my volunteer activities at St. Joseph of Cupertino Outreach, West Valley Community Services, Sacred Heart Community Service and Catholic Charities.

On website see additional: **Documents**

4.7 Religion

My growing up in pre Vatican II was following the church rules and not ever thinking of questioning. We were taught that Lutherans were awful, and we couldn't date a non-Catholic. Church was work...how many "First Fridays" to get to heaven. We moved to California, and Vatican II was a complete change and very positive. Social Justice was emphasized as well as loving our neighbor. Then along came two pre-Vatican II popes. The seminaries started teaching pre-Vatican II. We got a new bishop in our Santa Rosa diocese. He was from Nebraska and very conservative. I joined a small group that eventually grew to several hundred. We wrote letters to the papal nuncio and the Vatican asking that he be transferred. All our petitions were ignored. Next we asked that a successor bishop be from Vatican II. Nothing has happened, except we are losing our young people and children. Our church is not relevant to many. The church's position on gays, divorced Catholics, and women will not work. Fortunately we have Pope Francis. Several years ago while at RECongress I had an opportunity to speak with the papal nuncio, Christophe Pierre who is now a cardinal. I briefly described our situation with Bishop Vasa of the Santa Rosa Diocese in California. I indicated how extremely difficult it is to promote social justice and almost impossible to communicate to parishioners and share social justice and other community opportunities.

For letters I personally wrote to bishops and hierarchy, go to **Documents section 4.7 Religion** on the website.

On website see additional: **Documents**

4.8 Famous People/Events

People:

While at college, Dorothy Day spoke to the students. I had an opportunity to talk to George Schultz while at the University of Chicago. At my 25th year anniversary at HP, I talked directly to Dave Packard and Bill Hewlett. I met Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, when I was board president of Sacred Heart Community Service. I sat next to him at our groundbreaking event even though we didn't own the site. After we moved to our rural Santa Rosa location, a famous celebrity, Guy Fieri, attempted to buy some land at the entrance to our neighborhood and intended to develop an event center. Judy and I were key members of a neighborhood group that spent a lot of time and money hiring an attorney, pleading our case with the county, and won!!!

A minor thing happened: Our family was cross country skiing in Idaho. We were eating lunch in a lodge. A funny guy was in the cafeteria line next to me. He made a couple of funny comments like "This is roadkill." I sat down at our table and asked, "Who is that guy?" Our family said, "That is Robin Williams."

Events:

In the 70's I was named by the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce as a "Citizen of the Year." The executive director of Cupertino Community Services got lots of people to submit my name. That was a complete shock

as nobody in the business community knew me. In 2003 I was one of eight people recognized by the City of Cupertino with a Crest Award. I was recognized for my help founding two organizations: Sacred Heart Community Service and West Valley Community Services.

In the 1980's I was riding my bike home from work in a major rain storm. I rode every day, as I told people this is just a typical day in June in Minnesota. Anyway, I was passing a rain swollen creek, and I saw flashing lights in the river. I immediately stopped a bus and told them to call 911. I carefully went down into the river; the car was upside down, and I leaned in and pulled out a woman. I held her until the rescue team came. I had a lot of outdoor experience camping, mountain climbing, and Army training, and I had the will to help. I didn't want to endanger my life by being reckless. As I was getting on my bike to ride home, one of the people asked if I had rescued her. I gave them my name and pedaled home. My parents were staying with us, and I announced that you will never believe what happened on my way home from work. The news media contacted me, and I was on prime time TV. I was also recognized at HP in their local newsletter.

Politicians:

I supported local politicians as they were beginning their careers:

I met Mike McGuire at a coffee shop in Windsor as he was beginning his first campaign. He was recently elected head of the California Senate. James Gore was invited to a group gathering at our place to stop marijuana growing in residential neighborhoods. He was elected a county supervisor and has been re-elected several times. Rosa Reynosa was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish and a good friend. I supported her campaigns, and she is now mayor of Windsor.



Joe with Bill Hewlett (Tan Sport Coat)



Joe with Dave Packard (Tall Person)

*On website see additional: **Movies/DVD***

4.9 Finances and Cash Flow

I was born in 1940. The Great Depression was just ending and World War II was starting. We lived off our garden. One year we canned 60 quarts of peas and nobody liked canned peas. My mom made a lot of our clothes. My grandfather, Joe Tembrock, owned the Ogema State Bank. He was financially conservative and had adequate cash reserves, so the Ogema State Bank was the third bank in Minnesota to reopen after the bank holiday. We were taught by example to work hard and then we had free time to play. We were also

taught to save money, and we all had a savings account at a young age. My brother Bill and I had a paper route when we were in the 7th and 8th grades and through some of high school. It was 365 days a year every morning and evening except on Sunday with only a very heavy Sunday morning paper. Our parents were very generous and paid for all our college educations. I saved money in grade school, high school, college, and the military, and with my wife Judy's help, paid for most of my grad school at the University of Chicago.

The first secret to financial stability is to buy only what you really need, especially when you are young. Credit card debt is only for emergencies. Invest in a home and education, and save money for opportunities for investment. The real secret is compound interest.

4.10 Education

My family had deep German roots. Work hard, have fun, and plan ahead. My grandfather, Joe Tembrock, went to St. John's in the early 1900's; my dad, Ray Tembrock, in the 1930's. My mom finished two years of college at age 16, and at age 18 was the principal at Callaway elementary school. They both worked very hard and saved to send all five of us through college. I got all A's in Waubun High School but learned very little. At St. John's, my head was a sponge; I wanted to learn everything. I loved psychology and history. I audited many courses like music appreciation, architecture, social justice, philosophy, and theology. I wouldn't be me without St. John's. After my army tour, I got an MBA from the University of Chicago. I got, basically, an Associate of Arts degree from De Anza College in computer science while I worked at HP. After we moved to Sonoma County, I studied grape growing and wine making and basically got another AA degree.

4.11 Curiosity

Reflecting back, I was always curious. Not a profound curiosity, but a practical curiosity like "How does this work?" or "How can I fix it?" During high school I was always reading. I don't remember where I got the books. My sister Marilyn was always after me to put away my books. In college I joined the "Great Books." I read all the books but never got involved in the discussions. I have always been curious about organization structures like: the Church, community organizations, non profits, and political organizations. Mostly I get involved with organizations and find a spot to make a difference, or I quit. I occasionally write a letter to the editor in our local newspaper. Individually, or as part of a group, I have written letters to local bishops, the papal nuncio, and to the pope. We annually donate about 20% of our gross income to personal causes and nonprofit organizations. I monitor their credibility and mission. Before I make a commitment to donate, I research the organization.

After my heart atrial fibrillation, I subscribed to the monthly Berkeley Health Letter and the Harvard Heart Letter. I read National Geographic, Carter Center, Habitat for Humanity, Southern Poverty Law Center, Doctors without Borders, Smithsonian, Nature Conservancy and St. John's bulletins. My favorite for global and national news is the weekly Economist magazine. Judy and I watch current news events and critically critique them. In my opinion, the best news commentator is Fareed Zikaria on Sunday mornings. We record and watch later in the day. As my health has recently deteriorated, I became very curious about my longevity and what I needed to do to prolong my life with doctors and medications. I also started transitioning my duties and tasks so Judy could live in our beautiful place for as long as possible. I have started a "Transition Book" that describes the many processes of our complex finances, house, and yard with its irrigation and plant maintenance. Also, because of my health, I have become more curious about the next life or eternity. Again, I don't have profound thoughts. I will repeat that "I believe heaven is now." The joy that I experience now is the same joy I hope to experience in heaven without all the other life challenges.

4.12 Climate Change

Global climate change is the biggest threat to living on our planet Earth. It is occurring slowly, and we, the First World, have made luxuries necessities. Judy and I have personally done some things to minimize our carbon footprint. We installed a six kilowatt solar system. We bought a Prius in 2012 to reduce our gas usage (average 50+ mpg). We no longer buy plastic drinking bottles. We have a garden and grow food in the summer, especially corn and tomatoes. We recycle everything that is practical. We are very high carbon users as we have 4.6 acres of land that will grow almost anything that has water. So we use a lot of water from our well and that takes electricity. Our goal is to become carbon neutral. That means estimating how much carbon we are using as fossil fuels (including air travel), how much carbon is in the stuff we consume, and determining the purchase carbon offsets. Note: I have various diseases that limit my energy. I may not fully implement our carbon neutral goals. I will start with our fossil fuel usage including air travel.

I just finished reading an excellent book called: "Under the Sky We Make" by Kimberly Nicholas. She blames fossil fuels executives who "deliberately sow public doubt about scientific conclusions by trying to silence, delegitimize and discredit scientific knowledge, the scientific process, and scientists ourselves." The author especially challenges us personally how we can each reduce carbon by flying less, driving less, and more efficiently choosing our food, especially our consumption of beef.

4.13 Living My Last Years

I was very healthy until age 81.

Following are the diseases that I currently am challenged by:

- Atrial fibrillation. I was diagnosed when I was 58 and had seven cardioversions (heart stopped and restarted). None lasted very long and the process was stopped after a couple years. I can never tell if my heart beat is in a normal rhythm. I take a blood thinner, Warfarin, and am frequently tested for compliance. I still had energy and climbed Half Dome in Yosemite at age 72.
- Macular Degeneration/ eye hemorrhaging. Started about 10 years ago. I had shots in my eye for about five years. I take AREDS2 pills daily, and my eye has stabilized.
- Sweets. Started about three years ago with large red blotches all over my body. This is an autoimmune syndrome of diseases.
- Dysphagia/Thrush. This is a problem with swallowing and was the main cause of my huge weight loss last year from 140 to 110 pounds. This caused my oncologist to say if the pattern doesn't change I had four to eight weeks to live.
- VEXAS. Also started about 3 years ago. It is a very rare disease that was just discovered in 2020, and affects only about 20,000 worldwide. It stops the generation of healthy red blood cells. I take Prednisone to treat Sweets and VEXAS. I will probably be on Prednisone the rest of my life. That is a challenge as it causes my mind to be working day and night.
- Aortic Stenosis. Heart valve problem that is apparently not serious yet.
- Cataracts. I recently had surgery. The operation was a success.
- I take lots of pills and am concerned about interactions, especially with Warfarin that I take to keep my blood thin for atrial fibrillation.

We are fortunate that we both have long term care insurance and wonderful medical care from our health provider, Kaiser.

4.14 Wisdom

Four words come to mind:

Compassion: Seeing all humans and creation as a loving gift from God

Sharing: All we have and have been given are a gift. The challenge is how to use these gifts in a loving practical way in our very complex world.

Perseverance: I am generally patient in life's activities, projects, and endeavors. At some point I will give up or quit. I remember at our granddaughter's high school graduation party at our place with about 40 people attending, we were asked to pass words of wisdom to Anna. Our grandson Josiah said "Perseverance." This meant a lot to me as he had just completed his first year in college, quarantined, and in all online classes.

Joy: I find joy in life.

We live in a very challenging and complex world. This is especially true for me as I have major complex medical issues. I have written this memoir to attempt to describe my life environment and how I tried to live the above words.

A primary goal of becoming wealthy is not a good plan for a life of joy. Our son Joey owns a construction company that builds very high end multi-million dollar houses. He says most of the very wealthy are not happy.

4.15 Advice for Raising a Family

Balance work and life - relationships over values. Everyone in the family is expected to share family tasks. Give children work options. Parents and children work together. Listen to your children. During high school provide an allowance and expect children to share family chores for their allowance. Stress volunteer activity with parents. Family events together are important. Support children's events: sports, music, ballet, swimming, debate etc. Show up. Be generous with time and help fund children's activities. Be a joyful giver.

I am going to share a recent family event that really impressed me during our 2023 Thanksgiving week. We had 23 people seated for a delicious meal made by many people. We also had 17 people sleeping at our house. I am blessed beyond comprehension of the joy I felt with our loving family and friends. I documented many of the events. Our daughter Becky captured some of the fun events on camera. Judy is so right that fun events bring a family together.

Go to the website **Movies/DVD sections** and see the following:

- Section 2.10 *Joe and Judy 55th Anniversary* for my reflections on life
- Section 2.10 *Joe and Judy 215th Celebration* for my reflections on choosing a life partner
- Section 4.15 *Shad fishing with Joey and the girls* for my reflections on choosing a life partner
- Section 2.13 *Tembrock Ted Talks* (Grampa Joe section)

On website see additional: **Documents Movies/DVD**

5.0 Other Memoirs (Referenced)

Several family genealogy stories are included in the Joe Tembrock Memoir website.

2.1 John Tembrock Genealogy

See 2.1 in **Documents** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

2.8 Jim Tembrock: Jim/Bill/Joe Trip to Joe's Army Training

See 2.8 in **Documents** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

5.1 Margaret Tembrock Story: I Was Born in a Granary

See 5.1 in **Documents** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

5.2 Amy Tembrock Edmondson: Tembrock Stories

See 5.2 in **Documents** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

5.3 Nicole Tembrock Genealogy

See 5.3 in **Documents** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

5.4 EJ Brandl (Judy's Dad) Telling Stories

See 5.4 in **Movies/DVD** section of Joe Tembrock's Memoir website

Conclusion

Someone asked me to write a conclusion. As I reflect back on my life and the last couple years of working on my memoir, the following phrase comes to mind:

"Develop a habit of caring"

I observe habits are hard to get started, but once in place are relatively easy to continue. I also observe that many people are currently hooked on social media and watching endless entertainment. They are losing contact with the real world. I decided early in life to dedicate significant time, talent, and treasure to helping the disadvantaged. This can also be a source of great personal joy. I generally volunteered at least one day a week. I have attempted to balance spirituality, family, and work with caring.

Acknowledgements

In the spring of 2021 when I was 81 years old, our granddaughter Rachel Edmondson and a friend spent a week with us. Rachel asked about my memoir progress. I was still collecting ideas. She said, "Grandpa Joe, just do it." That's when I got organized and started writing. Our daughter Becky Lorenz spent hours reviewing slides and Smartphone pictures. She did an excellent job of choosing and organizing pictures. Our daughter Amy Edmondson is a master at organizing and keeping track of the many documents. Our grandson Josiah Lorenz did his technical magic and transferred all the files to the WEB so anyone can access my memoir. Some of Joey's awesome DVDs are included. Our daughter Mary, in a positive way, insisted a memoir book with colored pictures be given to each family member. Amy has agreed to own the files for posterity.

Epilogue

On Easter Sunday I had my right leg amputated below the knee. I had contracted gangrene in my right foot. Six days later I had a second amputation above the knee as there was still an infection. I am now officially handicapped and will need help the rest of my life.

When I started my memoir about three years ago, my vision was a simple document that contained my beliefs with some anecdotes and a few pictures and have it maintained for future generations. However, thanks to an awesome team, we developed a special document that provides a link to an awesome web site that contains photos, documents, DVDs and audios. I decided to share with a broad group of friends and made bound copies and our team distributed the documents. Many replied. Go to the web and select "Epilogue" to read some replies. I am a bit overwhelmed by the positive responses.



Joey and Joe on the deck March 2024