

## **THE 1931 AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF REGINALD BISHOP NICKLAS**

Reginald B. Nicklas was born on the seventh day of May in 1913. His father was full bred German. The usual talent for business has made him successful as a merchant. The chap's mother is mostly German although a strong trace of Scotch-Irish flows in her veins. Gifted as a designer of homes she has proven herself many times.

One would think that the son of these two people would have prepared to either follow in his father's footsteps, to be a designer, or to take up some "profession" resembling one of these. He is doing neither.

Since a small child when he played with toys on the floor, he has been mechanically inclined. He is so inclined to mechanics that a course in mechanical engineering is the natural and logical thing for him to be in at present.

The success of his father leaves him free from enforced labor. Do not think however, that he dislikes work. Mental work is preferable to physical labor should not be neglected. To have his mind clear his body must be kept well. This he attains through concentrated gymnastics in the winter and good hard work in the summer.

He likes all athletics. He enjoys taking part in them and is satisfied when he is not participating but just looking on and picking out the good and bad points of the plays and players. Here is illustrated his philosophy of life. Life is a game with players taking part. A favorite "pastime" of his is to sit back and regard from a distance one of the dramas of life. To "analyze" the players and to try to imagine their own inner emotions as they act is included together with his attention to the character of the person or persons who are taking part. This little hobby makes him interested in every person he meets. He has yet to find the person in whom some particularity or trait is not present, and which is invariably interesting.

The modern picture show interests him only when players such as Gorge Artiss, Marcie Dressler, and Lewis Stone are participants. Any good play or drama is attended by him. He likes a good player. He thinks that most of the modern plays are wanting in character and this leaves a vacancy in their acting.

Music is one of the agents with which he spends a quiet restful hour. Though he has never attended a real opera he likes to listen to those which are broadcasted over the radio. His tastes for literature are slight. He enjoys reading one author who is Henry L. Menken but with whom he does not always agree.

His taste for mechanical contrivance/contraption? is great. As a child he destroyed a number of watches just trying to see what made them tick. Chemical and erector sets were

common sights in his room. Of course, all boys like to play but when "Reggie" played with a toy his playing was more of a studying, not a toy as a whole but the parts of the toy and their relationship to each other were what interested the child. Now the parts of the complicated "mechanism" and not the whole unit interest the young man.

Golf, swimming, and boxing, he likes very much. He excels in swimming and during the summer spends almost one fourth of his time in the water. Golf interests him but golf is a game in which one must be consistent and ready to take the good and bad breaks as they come. This makes it a hard game for him to play as he cannot be a consistent player. When he has some good breaks and then along comes a "dub" or a "slice", he blows up. It is not like this in lessons or other everyday things. If he happens to be low in a subject, he does not give up but does his best to make his mark.

His views on religion are the same as those of his parents who have from infancy, taught him to believe in God as a super-natural and eternal being.

His views on women are probably a little old fashioned, but he sticks to them just the same. Of course his views lives a life which is balanced and which is agreeable to him. He is now a student in The Pennsylvania State College with half of the first year behind him. His views on life are the same as before he entered college and he is sure they will always remain the same.

\*Copied from the original by his daughter Barbara Fesche which was found at the home of her Grandmother Rimmel after her death in October 1982. Per another daughter, Paula Snodderly, Reginald provided a copy of his essay to his wife Jeanne's Mother so that she would have a better idea of who he was and what his values are.