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Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016

Subject: 2016 Thanksgiving Missive from Paul Stewart

At this season of Thanksgiving, I have much for which to be thankful, including my interaction with you!

On March 5, 2016, my father John Arthur Stewart died at the age of 96 after living a full life. In thinking back about his life, I realize that Dad truly was part of what we in America call "The Greatest Generation" -- those who asked for so little and gave so much. To honor Dad's memory this Thanksgiving, I am sharing 10 interesting tidbits about my father. (I've also attached a PDF file with six photos that show a snapshot of Dad's life story.) Perhaps some of these thoughts may inspire you ... or make you chuckle ... : -) ... :

1. **Dad began life with an outhouse and no indoor plumbing.** When Dad was a child on the farm, his family used chamber pots during cold winter nights so they didn't have to trudge to the outhouse in the snow. When it came time to bathe on Saturday evenings, his mother would put a large pot of water on their wood stove to heat up the water that each child then adults (with all working men last in the sequence) in turn used to take their weekly bath before going to church each Sunday, but in the summer, the water had instead been warmed by the sun. I often take for granted all the modern comforts that we enjoy, and these two examples of my Dad's humble beginnings remind me of the significant changes Dad saw during his lifetime.

2. **On Mom's first trip to the farm in the late 1930s, Dad introduced Mom to farming by having her walk with him behind two draft horses that were pulling a 1-bottom moldboard plow.** By contrast, in 1974 when I took (my wife-to-be) Susan on her first trip to our farm, she rode in an air-conditioned John Deere tractor pulling a 4-bottom moldboard plow. Dad had a saying about their working horses on the farm (and please pardon my choice of words here): "A farting horse never tires, and a tired horse never farts." Using this "wisdom" of the farm, Dad knew when it was time to take his faithful work horses to the barn so they, too, could rest. He had deep respect for all animals and always treated them kindly, and he taught all five of his children to do the same.

3. **Dad married for love.** My parents met while students at Purdue University, and dated for most of their college years, graduating in the spring of 1941. After our country entered World War II in December of 1941, my Dad joined the U.S. Coast Guard. He and Mom decided they did not want to postpone marriage until after the war. When Dad asked Mom's parents about Dad marrying Mom, they replied to him: "We don't want to talk to you about getting married [to our daughter]." You see, Dad was a humble farmer from the country, and Mom's father was a well-to-do business man from the city. My Mom's parents wanted the best for their daughter, and they told my Mom that they did not approve of the marriage and that she needed to choose him or them. Mom chose love and her parents did not even attend her wedding because they felt that "Johnny" (as they called Dad) wasn't "good enough" for Mom. Mom & Dad were married almost 71 years before Mom died, so Mom & Dad's decision -- despite her parents' disapproval -- ended up being very good for Mom, Dad AND for me!!!

4. **Dad left for World War II, and returned to work on the farm as if nothing had happened in the meantime.** I take for granted how Dad left his home and family with no questions asked and faithfully served the U.S. Coast Guard in the Pacific Theatre for a year as the skipper of what Dad called a "sub chaser." During that time, Mom went to live with her parents while she took care of her 6-month old baby (my oldest sister Barbara). Throughout his life, Dad always displayed that same level of commitment to causes bigger than himself.

5. **Dad instilled the importance of education in all five children and subsequently all 15 grandchildren.** Dad and Mom both valued education, and they both did everything they could to help us get good educations. For many farmers in the 1930s, getting a college degree was uncommon, but Dad was proud of his Purdue degree and loved to tell anyone that all of his five children have degrees from Purdue University. Perhaps it is no coincidence that all 15 of Dad's grandchildren also have college degrees, most from Purdue.

6. **Dad had wanted to be a doctor, but circumstances did not make it possible for him to pursue his interest in medicine.** Despite this disappointment, Dad lived a full, satisfying life in his family farming and seed business where he showed me and others that one can have a rewarding life in any profession with the right attitude.

7. **I NEVER heard Dad say an unkind work about anyone.** Dad was known to say: "If you can't say something nice about someone, then don't say anything at all."

8. **Dad never met a stranger.** Dad had a special way to make anyone he talked with feel important, and he made time to personally know every worker at every level in our farm business.

9. **Dad loved to tell jokes and stories.** Sometimes my Mom got tired of hearing them over and over ... and over and over ... and over and over ... but Dad's jokes and stories were always clean, never disparaged others and always brought a smile to the faces of his audience.

10. **Dad supported me in going a different direction when I left our family farm.** My departure in 1984 from our family farming and seed business was a very challenging time for all of us, but Dad strongly encouraged me to pursue my dreams. That an Indiana farm kid like me who ended up graduating from Harvard Business School was in part thanks to my amazing father who allowed me to reach for something greater than the world I had known. That said, when I told Dad that I had been accepted to Harvard and that I had decided to go, he told me with his unforgettable smile: "That's the second-best choice if you don't get your master's degree from Purdue"!!!

My warmest wishes to you for the upcoming holiday season, and may you have a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2017.

All the best.

PAS.

PS – if for any reason you would prefer not to receive my Thanksgiving e-mail missives (the **only** uninvited communication that you will receive from me each year), please reply to me with the word REMOVE in the subject line of your reply and I will remove you from all such future communications. I understand the desire to reduce e-mail clutter and will graciously accept your wishes.

PPS – a number of you have recently asked if my wife and I are still taking dance lessons (see my 2014 Thanksgiving Missive on the PASCO Ventures website at <http://pascoventures.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/PAS-2014-Thanksgiving-Missive.pdf> if you did not see that missive). The answer is "yes" – in fact, Susan & I have been working diligently on our Rumba steps for our upcoming "showcase" dance performance on December 11th!

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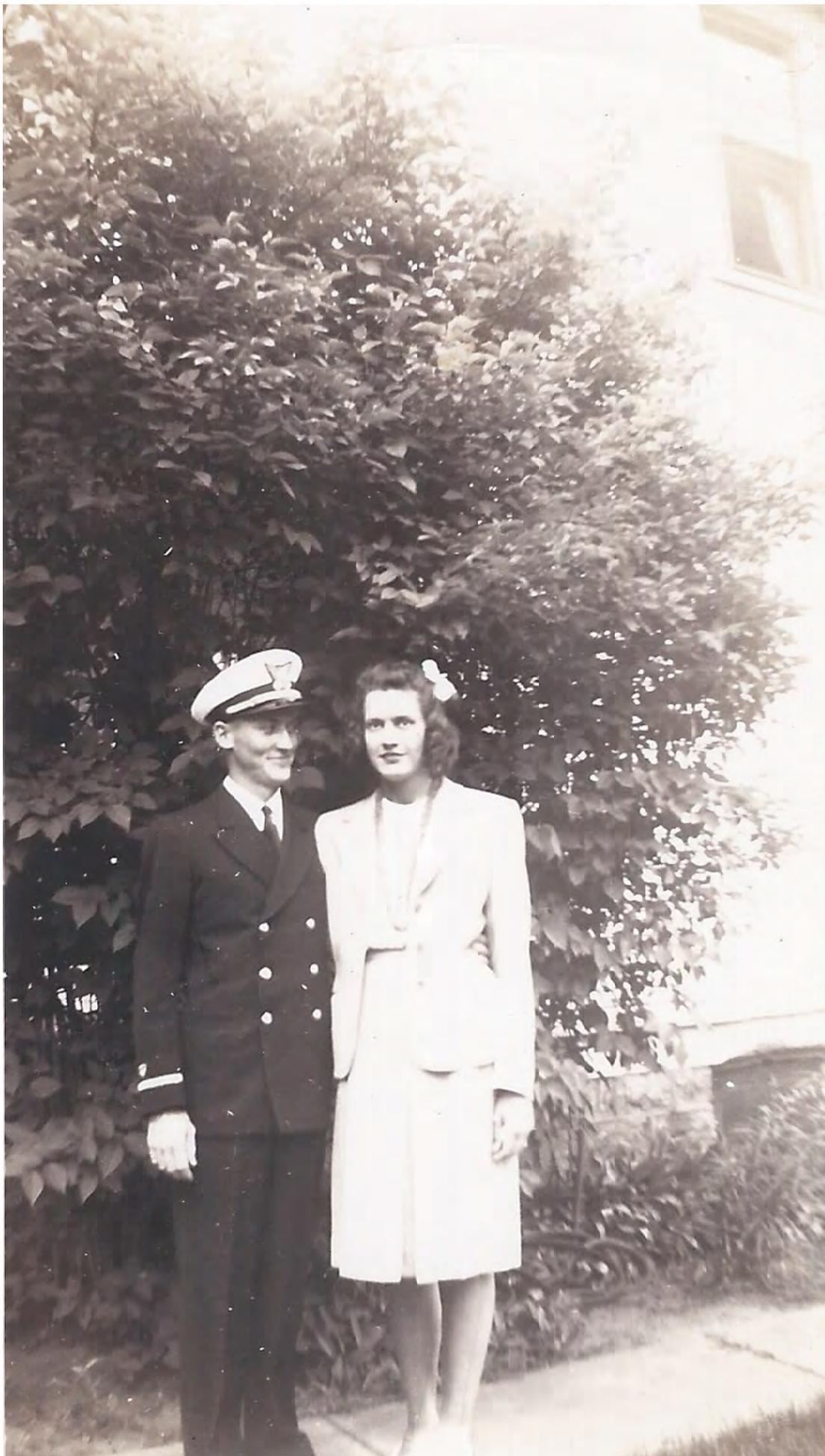
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John & Alberta Stewart outside her parents' home, ~1942



Christmas Eve 1961 with all five children (L-R): Janet, John, Jim, Barbara, Alberta, Carol and Paul



Summer 1962 (L-R): Carol, Barbara, Janet, Alberta holding Paul, and John holding Jim



March 6, 2010 -- Front: Alberta & John Stewart at Alberta's 90th Birthday Party
Back: Barbara, Paul, Jim, Janet & Carol



2013: Dad always had a fun sense of humor and didn't want us to forget that!



Mom & Dad dancing at the wedding of one of their grandchildren