

Working My Way Through Weber College in Ogden Utah 1938-1940

As a young man I was always a good student, interested in learning and exploring and getting good grades in school, particularly in scientific endeavors.

There was no problem in that respect. The problem was earning enough money to pay for tuition and books. From an early age, I earned enough money doing farm work to buy most of my own clothes.

I had good grades in the Ogden High School but never even realized that there might be scholarships and student aids, so I never applied for anything of this nature.

Most of my friends were considering enrolling at our local Weber College which was a two year school. There were only seven hundred students at this place at this time.

I wanted to attend but had no money at all. At this point my parents remembered that I had saved twenty dollars sometime ago but gave it to my father to go to the Mammoth Mines in the Tintic Mining District to get some work. This was the era of the 1927 Stock Market crash and bank failures and men could not find work anywhere.

I had forgotten all about this but my parents remembered and somehow they managed to repay me for the twenty dollars and this enabled me to enroll in school at Weber College.

This still did not give me enough money to continue my college education.

Fortunately, however, I discovered that the Federal government had given money to provide some jobs at the college. Most of the jobs were of a janitorial nature and paid only fifteen cents per hour. Later on the pay was raised to twenty five cents.

I need to digress, at this point to say a little something about the "Hi-Hatters" Dance Band. I was the organizer of the band and served as its leader, playing piano. I had business cards made and paid for a telephone in our home to accept calls. Additionally we had special attire made for each musician and made fancy, lighted music stands to hold their sheet music, copying bands like Laurence Welk and others. At this point in time, I not only was holding down the Janitorial job which began at four AM in the morning and ended at seven AM. I did make money with the band but at a price to my health. Usually we would play from nine PM to one AM and it always took additional time to get to and from the dance hall.

This was all too much! Study, work, and the dance band nearly did me in and I almost suffered an emotional collapse. My parents obtained a doctor to see me but I ended up having to save myself.

I gave up the dance band and turned it over to my friend, Prentice Agee who was an excellent trumpet player. A year or so later the band disbanded.

I was so bad off that I got behind in school and some of my stiffer math classes earned me a "D" grade. It took at least six months for me to regain my health and get back to normal.

A SPECIAL EXAMINATION

At some period in the Weber County School District some administrators devised a progressively difficult examination beginning with easy materials and ending with difficult materials.

This examination was given to every student in every school in the county. I was one of the many who took this exam.

Sometime later, my mother was contacted and called to come to the school with me. There, I was told that I, a nine year old Fourth Grader, had received the highest score of any student in the County School System which included all grades through twelve.

Well, I can explain this. *God bless Andrew Carnegie!*

We lived five miles from town but had the gumption to walk those five miles to take advantage of the resources at the **Carnegie Free Library** located on the corner of 26th Street and Washington Avenue.

That's where I was getting most of my education!

In the somertime and good weather my father or mother would pull a little red wagon along the southern Pacific Railroad tracks to pick up groceries while I and my brother Eugene visited the Library.

As an aside, my father once cautioned me to not ever envy a rich man because many of them use their resources to build manufacturing plants that create jobs and other things that are important to our country and our economy.

In the wintertime we would pull a sleigh along the same path.

I took his advice and conformed to it always.

Another thing that my father told me was to never drink Coca-Cola because it contained caffeine, which, like coffee, also contained the same habit forming drug.

Again, I took his advice in this matter and never ever even tasted either of these things. As a matter of fact, this was just one facet of our Latter-Day Saint Word of Wisdom.