

It starts as rebellion as a toddler, for some even earlier with crawling mobility. Curiosity and mobility make for a very active baby. Right here is where independence starts. Harassed parents curb or foster independence by the amount of leeway the crawler is allowed. So it moves up and out as we expand our abilities.

In my growing up my parents took a very liberal view and put me in an environment that was safe yet allowed for unusual freedom. That is Pure Luck, to this day almost 100 years later my curiosity is still going strong and my independence is my most valued asset.

Independence does not come cheap, not only financially but also socially. I find myself all my life an aggressive member of society. I seem to push harder and want more out of life. This trait was encouraged and fostered by both parents. They did not give answers, but provided the tools for "find out."

Books and a library card were prized gifts. To this day I am some what of a maverick. When some one says "you are lucky" I take umbrage, luck does not just happen, there is more hard work behind luck than is apparent on the surface. My grandson is often referred to as lucky, few know the effort he makes to achieve. According to his parents he never had to be reminded that a paper or book report was due. All through high school and into college, yes he was lucky, a good student. First year in grad school the deans list, lucky Alex, lucky Mike, depression grad gets to go to the Prom with a cats meow outfit and money in his pocket, black and white wing tipped shoes, white flannel slacks, blue jacket, white shirt and blue tie. Lucky? one year of delivering telegrams for a nickel a piece after school.

First job shipping clerk, came in extra early to prepare the work for the cutters, stayed late putting away patterns and made sure all parts were properly in their right places, lucky! yes the boss got a full forty hours from the cutters, and I got a raise, worked extra got paid extra, and learned all about cloth, patterns and lay outs for the most economic use of cloth. Yes lucky! Led to becoming a full fledged cutter at ninety dollars a week. Business closed, no job. My reputation for work got me in to a new trade within the industry, lucky! One year of working non union shops, learning on every temporary employment, skirts shirts slacks, each job teaching something, a permanent union job. In time foreman of a team. Talk crazy money lucky! last pay on entering the army \$215.00 for one week, in my pocket, lucky! Finding perfect marriage partner lasted sixty years, NOW THAT IS LUCKY! Retired at 62-33 years and counting of the best kind of retirement I could dream of lucky! But now my luck seems to have run out, I have had a bad year, do not dispare, I am working on getting lucky again, maybe I will make it, if not it wont be for lack of trying, come ON Luck I will help MIKE