

Sunday ver. - P.K. Allen Weiser
Jack Hirsch

Q from Joe DIXON:

1. I can't imagine a career that would better account for my deficiencies while better incorporating my abilities. So the answer is "No."

2. I probably had easier social relations as a child than later. My environs influenced this, as my father was itinerant, moved by the powers and needs of the Florida Methodist Conference rather than his or his family's needs. In some towns I was "one of the guys," in others "on the outside."

I was comfortable with my own pursuits in periods uncomfortable or unsupported by others, neither needing nor avoiding others. Generally, my companions were few but dependable.

3. Yes, I had a family and life pattern that allowed me to pursue at length my own and my assigned projects, of which there were always a sufficiency: duties, odd jobs, hobbies, sports, dreaming, caves, tree-houses, surreptitious smoking, collecting marbles, stamps, and matchbooks, raising pigeons, selling candy or fireworks, paper routes, produce boy, exploring, chemistry lab, reading, model planes, etc

4. I read at 2nd grade + level at age 5, probably due to my mother reading to me early. I made leaps in science areas and never "matured" in math. I had a facility of early and quick and superficial grasp of concepts not accompanied by pursuit of deeper comprehension or skills or competence (in most things I remained a "dilettante," a dabbler.)

4a. I was plunged into medicine with a ruptured appendix at age 17. The whole was fascinating and the surgeon involved me in the process. Soon after, recruited as TA for my Zool. lab during freshman college, I also joined the Navy and had to make a choice, "Deck vs Medicine" for my Navy-sponsored education. That was easy.

I worked in the produce section of a grocery and delivered a shopping guide to a large neighborhood each Saturday a.m. from ages 15 -17, along with a morning paper route of 200 customers daily for two years in high school.

From ages 8-10 I was the highest producing (award and prize-winning) agent and delivery boy for Sat.Eve Post and Colliers in my town, Bradenton, Florida.

9. See earlier answers. Usually a few good friends, never in a gang, and due to parental proscriptions, never in fraternities, social clubs, thus in "the outs" of that society of later high-school years (replaced by Hi Y, Honor Society, theater, band and orchestra).

10. Football freshman (at 138 lbs!). Sandlot baseball and touch football. Tennis with friends and then on U.of Miami tennis team (mainly because the top players were off to war!).

Adult sports downhill skiing and tennis 'till 70s.

11. Summers on Florida beaches and N.Carolina Mountains. Hitch-hiked Florida-Ohio-Canada-D.C. at age 16. All wider travel as an adult.

12. Violin group lessons and youth orchestra age 9-10. Clarinet group lessons in high school band and orchestra age 14-17. Largely self-taught. Lifetime playing in bands and small group activities, both serious and jazz music. Some shifts in instruments.

19. Lots of new skills were required to run a department. One could always do better. I made little progress in some but was able to find colleagues with complementary skills. One gives up much to be an administrator.

I had many satisfactions as administrator in developing an institution with new goals and broader scope but never became wedded to 'climbing' ever higher or enjoying academic power and reach. I set, privately, a stepping-down plan and stuck with it.

20. Both by chance and by choice I was able to change directions at intervals within the same institution, thus never tiring of or regretting a job. It was renewing to move from the clinic to the lab to the field and back again, and from observation to experiment to administration to the historical context of medical science. 60 years in the same institution doesn't have to mean "in a rut!"

21. Thinking tendencies

a/5

b/5

c/5

d/

e/10

f/10

g/10

22.

h/5

Yes, I expect I've given AND received much more than the average.

30. Addictions. I had no difficulty with my addictions. I enjoyed them a time and left them behind.

31. It may be a hallmark. It may not be a requirement.

32. Leader: B

33. I don't recall having to refuse an order; I'm sure I sought an acceptable compromise.

34. You seem to have covered the waterfront, Joe. My watchword, to self and students, was always: "Do a good job with whatever is in front of you." That's always and only the way to a new and better job."

It deals also with those who don't know what they want or like. Best, Henry