THE BEST YEARSTO BE ALIVE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Russell Rulon Bateman History

**Chapter 3 My Education and certifications**

My mother, Idella was the oldest girl in a family of 13. This she was only permitted to attend school through the eighth grade and after that was required to stay home and help with the family this was an early Mormon custom. It was hard on my mother to see her sisters and brothers able to go through high school and many of receiving advanced degrees. The oldest girl in those days was kind of a throwaway type assignment. However in later days my parents purchased Liberty Pharmacy and mother developed it into the nicest pharmacy in St. George she did this to prove to her family that she did have intelligence and abilities.

My father was highly intelligent and at the time he married my mother he had advanced degrees and only lacked his dissertation to earn his doctorate. To complete his dissertation he would’ve had a gone back East which he didn’t have the money for. It was the depression and times were hard.

My sister Helen inherited my father’s intelligence. My brother Orden seem to have a combination between my mother and my father. I inherited the talents of my mother. My IQ was never high and any education has been very difficult for me. I was never able to get high grades in any of the classes that I took. I never took exams and came out very well. However I learned to put forth the effort to compete for the goals of my lifetime.

My lifetime of successes where do to the major efforts and dedication that has been required of me throughout my lifetime.

I was born on a farm and had limited friends until I entered the third grade. My first formal education was attending the first grade in Idaho Falls my teacher was Miss Boyce and she seemed to be prejudice against “farm boys.” I had her again in the second grade and experience the same experience being a farm boy. I was punished for minor infractions that seem to be directed at me. At times my father had to wait an hour or so for me to stay my time sitting on the floor before returning to the farm.

Moving to Garland Utah in attending the third grade was an entirely change in my life. For the first time I was not a farm boy, I had classmates that I could associate on a normal basis. However it was always a struggle for me in school.

I have always had a problem with being that you may call a fast thinker on my feet and a personality that stands out as a people person.

With the talents that I inherited from my mother I have always stood out in my abilities.

I graduated from high school in the 10th grade at Woodward school in St. George. I went on for the 11th and 12th grade at Dixie junior-college lower division. However due to standardization I graduated from Dixie high school. A year to previously I would’ve received a degree from Dixie junior-college lower division.

Not having the funds to continue on to college I realized that I needed an education to develop a trade. I felt that I could find that in the military. I listed in the Navy to attend the radio materiel school. After my basic Navy training I was placed in radio school. I realized that I really wanted to go to the Navy electronic school, but probably due to my low test scores I was sent to the operator school. I was told us if I came out with a good grade from the radio school I could then put in for electronic school. I put in a lot of effort to come out with a fairly good grade from radio school even though I lost two weeks due to having the measles.

Opportunities in the military always seem to be based on test scores. So it seems and I had to study and put twice the effort into any of these tests to compete with other people.



I graduated from San Diego Junior College while serving in the Navy in the San Diego Area. I went on to San Diego State College, UCLA. University of Denver, University of Utah and Weber State College.

My motivation to continue in College as I seem to have employment that required a degree, that required me have the degree or to be enrolled in College pursuing a degree. I went to College 17 years continuous, part time.

I only had four credits to meet the graduation requirements from Weber State College in Data Technology. However, as a part time student when they changed their computer program, I was required to have an additional 40 hours in the new technology as computer Science developed. That change included changing from punch cards to the new terminal equipment.

I see the need for the changes, but it was discouraging to me and I dropped out of college with enough credits for a master’s degree, but not the right credits for a BS degree.

Later on Weber offered a General Degree and notified me of this program. Checking the requirements, it station that 45 hours of additional credit was required. Later I was told that I could position for the degree as I had 45 Credits on Campus.

Over the next couple of years, we did a lot of fun things together. I was permitted to put the large (about 16”) records on the player and play them over the air. These records were like “Hymns of all churches” and “the lone ranger”. I would even go on the air noting the next program that was to be played. There was a regular radio in the studio that you would have to turn down the volume so that you wouldn’t get the squealing – feedback when you went on the air. After having that experience a few times, I learned how to do it.

A man by the name of “Woody” open up a Radio store called “Paramount Radio”. I don’t remember much about his back ground other than he was severely injured in the great earth Quake in the San Francisco. He had his chest crushed so had to leave large indent area of his chest. We got to be great friends and he let me hang around his radio shop.

I remember that we tried to do some drama radio programs that evolved Herschel, Woody and a couple of others including me. Herschel came up with some script for the radio program and we would act out our parts. I remember that there wasn’t enough in number to take all the parts, so Herschel would put marbles in his mouth so that he would sound like a different person. These programs would originate in Woody’s store and feed the KSUB Station via telephone lines.

At the Paramount Radio Store, I tore radios apart for the parts to be used for repairing radios in that new radio tubes and arts were very hard to get. I Tested radio tubes from the old radios etc and did some repair on radios. I was never paid for my participation of activities at KSUB or Paramount Radio but was rewarded with experience and a lot of good fellowshipping.

I was working five nights a week as a projectionist at the two theatres and making good money for a kid 13 to 15 years of age.

I was working repairing Bikes at the H M Ensley Bike shop in Cedar City when they announced the first Atom Bomb was dropped. Shortly after that, Dad was transferred back to St. George.

Arriving back in St. George, I went to work at the two theatres in St. George for MacKay Larson. I also made friends with a Neil Lundberg who had a radio shop in St. George. We worked a little on learning the International Morse Code so that we could get our Amateur Radio license when the FCC would again open up the Amateur Radio program at the end of the War. Some way, Neil lost interest in continue studying for the test and I started studying with MacKay.

MacKay went to work in the defense industry in California and I took over his job of managing the projection Booths in the two theatres.

KSUB Radio Station obtained a high power Transmitter and you could hear the station in St. George. KSUB was still the only station in Southern Utah. At the request of Herschel, I set up the equipment and we broadcasted the Dixie – BAC Football game from the old Dixie College football stadium in St. George. This was the first Radio Broadcast from St. George. The broadcast was put over the telephone lines to Radio Station KSUB in Cedar City.

Not long after, I was asked to run a weekly Country Western program out of Dick’s Café that was sponsored by Shell Oil. I held on to the remote equipment so that they didn’t have to send someone down for the weekly broadcast.

Herschel Urie and his brother were able to obtain a new mobile P. A. System which they provided for my use with the agreement that I provide them 50% of any revenue that I received. So I had the first (and only) P. A. System (30 Watt Audio Amplifier) South of Cedar City. Two large mobile mount speakers were part of the system. I got very popular and was invited to everything game or other activity. St. George had a week newspaper and previously the only way to advertise any event. Football games, church activates, and things like the Red Cross, I didn’t charge for. Things that I received revenue for, I charged. My voice was the most heard voice in St. George for a couple of years as I drove up and down the streets announcing the upcoming activities..

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 After working there a couple of months, I knew that mounting tires and seat covers, that was not the occupation that I wanted. I didn’t have money to school. I talked with the Navy recruiter and was enlisted to go to Radio Material School.

After I finished Basic Training, I was sent to radio operator’s school. I went to the administration Office and told that that I had joined to go to Radio Material School. The Navy told me that once I completed the operator school, I could put in for the Electronics Technician School, but I had to have good grades from the Radio Operator’s school.

Part way through operator’s school, I went to the San Diego FCC office and took my Class “B” Amateur Radio Test from the FCC Engineer and had no problem passing it. A couple of weeks later I received my Class B W7NFT license (Issued 16 March 1949). A class “C” license was the test taken by mail and was the lowest class license. At that time, you had to be a Class “B” licensee for a year before you took the Class “A” test. Each step up, gave you access to more frequencies.

October 1, 1948, I purchased my first Amateur Radio receiver. It was a Hallicrafter S-53 Receiver Ser AB85688 $82.21 Radio Supply Company 48 East 4 th South, SLC1 Utah.

I missed the last two weeks of school in that I had the measles. I still came out with a good grade and after graduation rushed to the Administration Office in to request E. T. School and told that I would have to wait until I got out in the Fleet assignment to request the School.

Shortly after, I was stationed at Adak Alaska and immediately requested the E. T. School. I was then told that once you have attended a Class “A” radio operators school, you can’t go to a Class ”A” E.T. school. The Navy had been lying to me all along.

I was stationed at the Navy Transmitter Station and our assignment was to operate the many transmitters, changing frequencies and retuning as requested by the Hart Lake Receive Station. I found an old surplus AM transmitter with four 807 tubes in parallel and an old receiver and got on the air as W7NFT/KL7.

I took the Class “A” Amateur Radio Test from a Naval Testing officer and passed. I put in for a change in my license (as was required at that time) and at the same time and another Amateur Radio Licensee. He received KL7ZB and mine came back KL7AAD, third KL7 three letter call. In those days, a “two letter” call had a lot of prestige, and I had missed it by three assignments.

In talking with several other “Ham” I suggested that we set up a “Base Amateur/MARS Radio Station” and found a lot of interest. We found an unused small office building, but it had no power. One of the licensed operators was a Contactor that was on Adak doing some construction work. He said that if we got permission to use the building, he could find the underground power cable.

I put in the request for the building and it was approved and I was made the “Station Trustee.”

I was only a “two striper” lowest rating of any of the new members of the Adak Amateur Radio Club. We set up schedules and took shifts in permitting some of the base personnel to talk to their families back in the lower States. At that time, there was no telephone or other means for base personnel to make contact with their families other than mail.

We had acquired a surplus Hallicrafter BC610 Transmitter and later build a RF amplifier using a 610 Transmitting tube. Being Chrystal Controlled was a problem so we tried to build a “VFO” variable Frequency Oscillator which gave a lot of problems with drifting. I ordered a Collins 310B exciter really made a nice station.

At that time, there were very few Alaska “KL7” stations on the Air. Many Amateurs were looking for KL7 stations to complete their “Work all states certificate”. When you would put out a CQ (invitation to transmit-contact). A large number of stations would reply wanting you to confirm the contact with a “QSL Card.” These stations were not only the United States, but many other countries such as England and Germany. The next step was to exchange QSL card confirming that you had made the contact. You were considered to be a successful “Ham” once you acquired a shoe box full of QSL Cards. (I had two shoe boxes full with cards from all over the world, which were later destroyed by our pet Hamsters.)

Several times, I would hear my call sign (KL7AAD) being fraudulently used by ships out in the bay where licensed and non-licensed radio operators would boot leg using my call as they were not legally permitted transmit on Amateur Frequencies on ship board.

The last six months of my 2 year duty assignment on Adak, I was stationed at a Navy Intelligence station on the other side of Adak called “Radio City”. My assignment was not part of the Intelligence activity, but a supporting position as outlined in my Military Adak Chapter. (see the Aleutians chapter)