

## John's Life

To understand John Habjan of 2023, we must start and understand his childhood days and the various transitions that he underwent. John is the second son from a poor family of 10 children and raised on a small farm. His life was limited to farm, school and church.

The local elementary country school that John attended was a one room eight grade school with one local teacher and an average of 25 students in all eight grades. The teacher was a small country person but very strict and adhered to her teaching profession in every respect. A normal school day began by saying the Lord's Prayer then a student would read some Bible story from her Anglican Bible with a short explanation what the Bible passage was teaching us then, we would sing the national anthem. The next step was attendance. Every student's name was called with the response of present. Any student arriving late had to present the teacher with a signed note by the parents and clearly stating the reason for being late. If the student was absent the previous day, he or she also required a note with the parents' signature. Following recording of attendance, the classes began.

The students in the upper grades 6th and 7th and 8th would take the students in the lower grades 1st, 2nd and 3rd for reading in the various parts of the large classroom. The teacher usually took grades four and five to the blackboard to write and solve mathematical problems assigned the previous day. Concurrently the teacher would be assuming work assigning work to all other students not involved with the instruction of the lower grades.

The first thing after lunch was penmanship. All eight grades had to draw straight lines and circles. After several weeks of the foregoing, the students began writing numbers and letters, only one letter or one number per day. The penmanship exercise was all handed in every day, graded and returned the following day. The letters and numbers were on cards approximately 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches. The students had to repeat both numbers and letters until they were like the sample above the blackboard.

During the rest of the afternoon the teacher spent on teaching new material to all grades one after another. The teacher used her lunch hour to write new material or assignments on the blackboard so that everyone was occupied with some type of assignment.

The teacher believed in the five R's, reading, writing arithmetic respect and religion. The teacher's comment with respect to the Bible readings explanation dealt with respect of other students, respect of parents, respect of the law, the

elderly etc. She always managed to bring in the love of God for all people and how we need to follow Jesus' teachings as of love as referred in and by the bible reading.

The students in the classes were Catholics, Lutherans, Anglican and United Methodist. Regardless of our religious backgrounds, we all at one time or another read passages and parables from her Angelicum Bible. To my knowledge no one ever questioned reading from the teachers' bible. There was no swearing, or any sort of bad language used in her school at any time. The teacher taught by example. She taught what she believed and practiced every day of her life. If any student had any problems with any subject, she would visit the parents and assist them by some additional tutoring during the summer months so the student would be able to keep up with the work the following year. She took the time to help anyone in need of additional help. She wanted all her students to succeed in life.

On the farm life was not pleasant to say the least. With ten of us kids my parents did not promote the 3R's. That was our personal responsibility to master the three R's. My parents on the farm had the three W's. That is work, work and work. We had cows that had to be milked twice a day, watered and fed, stables cleaned pigs fed chickens fed etcetera. Just like going to school only a different type of work and responsibility. I dreamed of the day when my life would change to be relieved of the farm chores. During the elementary school days, my job was to milk the cows every morning and every night while my older brother done most of the other chores. At the age of 12 or 13 my entire life changed when I met Carlyle F Anderson from Clarion Iowa. Even today, I believe it was God's intervention that God sent Mr. Anderson into my life to give me hope for a future beyond my imagination. As I explained to Mr. Anderson my life was at a dead end and I could see no further future of ever getting off the farm.

Mr. Anderson told me his life story of how his parents both died when he was only a young boy and how his uncle raised him on his farm outside of Clarion Iowa. Mr. Anderson told me of the hard work on his uncle's farm and how he dreamed of a better life off the farm by going to school and getting a good education. One day while assisting Mr. Anderson with some painting in the garage. He wanted to know how I was with mathematics, and I assured him I was usually at the top of the class. As we discussed mathematics, he popped the question about going back to school. He further impressed upon me the importance of mathematics at the college level. I told Mr. Anderson that I had been thinking about school, but I'm somewhat confused with all the unknowns.

Mr. Anderson told me of all the personal qualities that he sees in me such as perseverance, determination a happy and healthy attitude towards life,

endurance and a willingness to work hard to accomplish my goals is very similar to his qualities when he was 18 years old. Within the next few minutes Mr. Anderson dropped me off at home. I was left in total confusion but also with hope of the unknown as never before. I prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed as never before. Mr. Anderson thinks I can do it and my parents think I was born to stay and work on the farm. Oh God! What do I do? I don't want to disappoint my parents and I want to go back to school because Mr. Anderson said so. But how can he be so sure that I can do it?

Then in 1954, Mr. Anderson got himself a brand-new Buick 2 tone blue. I told Mr. Anderson what a beautiful car that Buick was with all the extras, some of which I had never seen before. Mr. Anderson responded, if you go back to school, you could have a car even nicer than this 54 Buick. Since I was somewhat car crazy, I realized I had no choice but to go back to school and I did.

My parents were devastated to think that I would go back to school, but Mr. Anderson told me that he would help me in any way possible. Later when I informed Mr. Anderson that I had decided to go back to school and take mechanical engineering, he informed me that it was a difficult curriculum. Mechanical engineering was tough but I was determined to get my BSC ME which I received from Michigan tech in 1968. At that point, my parents and Mr. Anderson were all happy for me.

This was one of the greatest days of my life I reached my goal after a 14-year plan of work and study. All the efforts were well worth it. My perseverance my hard work and my endurance and determination paid off in personal satisfaction in accomplishing such a far-reaching goal. In the end I am forever grateful to Mr. Anderson for his encouragement and my parents for their support during my years of college.

Since 1968 I have been employed by oil and natural gas. I have been involved in all phases of the oil & natural gas industry such as surveying, leasing company. In drilling promotion exploration development distribution underground storage pipeline construction dehydration and compression. I am experiencing all phases of the oil and natural gas business. I was well trained by a major company, and then I was a petroleum consultant for approximately 10 years then as an owner of oil and gas leases and natural gas distribution companies. During and beyond my consulting time, I attended numerous oil & gas related seminars sponsored by service companies such as Halliburton, Dowell, Birdwell and Schlumbger. All seminars dealt with well enhancement. In 1973 attended an advanced course in drilling techniques and associated problems a two week course sponsored by Oklahoma university petroleum engineering department

## **Work experience:**

When I accepted my first job, I had no idea what was really involved. My training involved sitting at a well for 24 hours per day from start to finish. Sometimes in the middle of nowhere, I wondered why I went to college now stuck in the in the mud checking drilling samples, checking mud and water samples and recording every change regardless of how small. Every change in penetration color or taste of water had to be recorded and the driller notified of the change.

After one year of the foregoing, I was promoted engineering supervisor to oversee all company drilling operations with an engineering staff responsible to me. Before two years my responsibilities included all cementing and fracturing operations in addition to all drilling operations. Within the following year underground natural gas storage pool was under my control of operations. As a matter of fact, very little occurred in the company that somehow was not under my control.

With all the other operations in the company, I was schooled in the preparation of writing all drilling programs and cost estimates of every well along with estimated cost of well cementing and well fracturing. Most wells were drilled to the depth of 2000 to 3000 feet. With all the responsibility, I was on the go 12-18 hours per day and six days a week and available seven days a week if necessary.

Different times I would think of my childhood days, milking cows and cleaning the pig pens. I credited Mr. Anderson my mentor and how he changed my life forever I didn't see Mr. Anderson very often but when we met, we had plenty to talk about. In fact, some of our most joyful moments of both of our lives. I was treated like a king no one questioned my authority or decisions and I only reported to the company vice president. Life could not have been any better nor more challenging period the only regret I had in later years is that when I was out in the mud in the middle of nowhere during my first year that I didn't pick the brains of the old drillers more than what I did.

The whole world opened with opportunities. Norway Australia South America Iraq as well as elsewhere in the United States of America but I did not want to leave the state of New York Pennsylvania and West Virginia. All the opportunities were very tempting but as the children were growing up, I felt that my family responsibility should take priority over big money. Rather than to take a distant job I decided to be an independent petroleum consultant.

Life as a consultant was different. You never knew where the next job will take you. As a petroleum consultant in one year, I worked for 13 different companies the jobs involved writing geological reports for investment groups testifying in the courts in Buffalo NY in Mayville NY as a technical expert where my professional engineering expertise and knowledge were tested and on the line. At

one meeting in Buffalo, NY, we raised \$7 million in 1976 making presentation to investors. Testing of natural gas wells for companies and investment groups meeting with other consultants and geologists in defending my gas well, and oil field analysis of their projects as each job was a new experience. Consulting work was interesting, but it also proved to me how devious companies and people can be.

Many development opportunities came my way which tempted me to become an owner in the oil and gas industry rather than just a consultant. With so many such opportunities I began picking up oil and gas leases in my own name forming a company and drilling my own wells which was a very lucrative and monetary rewarding situation in the late 70s. This of course meant finding my own investors which at that time was no problem due to my oil and gas exposure in New York State and in Pennsylvania. This trend financially rewarding allowed me to purchase additional leases and existing wells and then other small oil and gas companies thereby creating my own natural gas market for my natural gas production.

Many trips were made to West Virginia in negotiating a major deal in the distribution of natural gas. The company needed considerable capital for system improvements as well as the existing wells.

It soon became obvious to me that my future will be in West Virginia on the purchase of the first company was complete many other opportunities surfaced. Another small gas utility, well gas lease, a complete oil and gas field with several 1000 acres and two groups of wells. The company was approached by other individuals with substantial oil and gas leases within miles of the original purchase. My total involvement was beyond my initial imagination and the company hired several more employees to assist with line repairs well work owners, system repairs etcetera a local attorney was hired to assist with contract negotiations and other document preparation.

Acquisition of right of ways for new pipeline construction, easements for line extensions, more contracts for leases and well acquisitions. New paragraph all these things required money and the local bank was contracted contacted about several loans each project had a different loan application, different collateral and different terms. Due to so many property acquisitions, sometimes we had up to six different loans. Over the years my total loan exceeded \$4 million. All loans were repaid according to loan agreement.

During the summer months, high school students were hired to assist with pipeline construction and picking up materials and parts from the surrounding states. For a period of almost 10 years, we continued to expand the system by property acquisition and extensive pipeline construction to join all three utilities

and the natural gas producing properties. As the natural gas system expanded from less than 300 natural gas customers to 1000 natural gas customers. All this meant more employees. Many road crossings had to be bored for the natural gas service to the new customers added to the system.

Some of these were nerve-wracking situations but being experienced and working safely all the difficult jobs were done without an accident. In the difficult jobs, I prayed many times for God to lead us and protect us as I was on every difficult job on every mountain from start to finish.

Another major obstacle which had to deal with was a 360-foot-wide river since the gas customers lived on both sides of the river. According to the state regulations and the West Virginia Corps of Engineers who issued all river crossing permits over a period of three years 1984 to 1987 we installed 5 river crossings at a depth of six feet below the riverbed. A steel conduit 6 inches in diameter was then run and the gas line was inserted inside the six-inch steel line since I've never done a river crossing the job was a major challenge. But with sufficient planning and consulting with other engineers, everything went according to plan.

Being daring and aggressive we got involved with the local politicians and the local water company. 12 miles up the road the local elementary school had only high iron content water. All drinking and cooking were delivered to the school daily. The water company had plenty of extra water to supply the school and the residents along the way. Working with, the local politicians the County Road Superintendent the water company the department of highway West Virginia and the Public Service Commission after a year of planning received the green light to go ahead. The depth of ditch, the width of ditch and the distant separation between the gas line and the water line were agreed by all concerned. All concerned were involved with the gas companies' responsibility to oversee the project on a fixed budget and a deadline date to have water at the elementary school.

After a brief meeting with all parties involved the following plan was adopted. Everyone worked 40 hours per week we will have staggered shifts some started at 6:00 AM eight AM 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM we will work from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM as long as weather permits everyone works according to their posted schedule the daily ditch digging average is below 800 feet for a 12 hour day this will never be finished this year unless I give you all some incentive in addition to the flagger since the job is a long a County Road there will always be eight employees on the job when we dig more than 800 feet per day everyone on the job that day will get a bonus so that if we get 1200 feet in any one day you'll receive 1 and 1/2 times your hourly rate.

To this day I was surprised what a difference the incentive made to everyone. I've been on many jobs but how well all the guys work together was unbelievable. Sometimes they were close to double the minimum amount. I never saw a group so happy and working so hard. It proves that if you give a man incentive to work that is more money he will work harder and be a happier person.

The deadline was met and within the budget. I was proud of everyone on that job. My background is in time and motion study as a mechanical engineer. Over the past 40 years we laid over 200 miles of natural gas lines in West Virginia. Also, we inserted many miles of three-inch gas plastic line into old, crowded Florence steel lines which results in great cost savings.

Upon joining the three company gas company utilities the gas customers were sold to a major utility, but the oil and natural gas wells were not. With some help I still operate and sell all available natural gas to the major natural gas utility companies in the area. new paragraph every week I go to West Virginia and walk the mountains check pipelines and pump oil wells as always. The West Virginia Mountains know me and I know them.

In 2015 and 2016, I drove my car to all 48 lower states and flew to Alaska and Hawaii. I personally visited every election office in every state and picked up all the necessary paperwork required to get my name on the ballot for President.

I realize and understand the immense amount of work ahead of me for 2024. Also, I promoted myself and advertised on 2 radio stations and one T.V. Station across the United States.

### **Religion:**

I was raised a Catholic, but all my life most of my friends have been Baptists. In fact, one of my employees a Baptist read the Bible to me on a regular basis. Sometimes on his own porch, sometimes in his garden other times on the pipeline jobs or at the wells. He was one of the best Christians I ever knew. No one on the job would swear or use foul language with him on the job. Over the 40 years I attended various Baptist services as well as many funerals. Next to the gas companies' office worked a local Baptist minister where for many we shared our faith. Different times I said if I if he doesn't make it to heaven God help the rest of us. In West Virginia I have eaten at their homes with them, prayed with them and shared my faith with them. Religion was always a part of my life growing up. We prayed the rosary every night and went to church every Sunday. As I left home my parents impressed upon me to go to church on Sundays and don't forget to pray.

Over the years, I thought religion at all levels and whatever parish I attended. In 1992 I attended a religious weekend and the message that I received was to do something good for others that we would not ordinarily do. A local nursing home was looking for people to come to the home in the evenings hopefully one night per week. Several other people in the parish agreed to go and asked me to go along with them. Since I was hesitant, I was coached enough, and I joined them even though that was not my cup of tea. A year later, the other group members all dropped out and I was the only one going to that nursing home. Well, after 30 years I'm still going to the local nursing home. To sing, to pray and to read the Bible. The group is non-denominational. The evenings involve singing a song at the beginning, usually just talk to them. The evening is always closed with a prayer for all of them, for health and peace and especially peace for our country and peace for the entire world.

My story is somewhat unbelievable by today standards. Mr. Anderson, my mentor was effective in leading me to further my education. He saw potential in me that I did not know I had. His guiding conversations will never be forgotten.

Mr. Anderson was a good Christian a man who took a poor, hopeless farm boy and made the happiest Mechanical Engineer out of him. I can never thank Mr. Anderson enough for his Christian perspective and his overall influence on my life and moral standards. Even though we were not the same religion we shared many of the same life values regarding business honesty which we discussed during my college and business years.

There were many difficult times during my college years but after graduation some of the impossible jobs became a reality and all because one man had faith in the potential and endurance abilities.

I believe that I am ready and prepared for the job of President of the United State in 2024. With all the impossible jobs of my past, my perseverance, my ability to promote happiness amongst all the employees, I believe with God on my side no job is too great or too difficult for me.

All I need is your confidence in me like Mr. Anderson had and I will be the next President of the United States.