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SUCCESS IN YOUR JOB

Many people today are only interested in their vocation as a means of making a living. To use a trite expression, they are working for "five o'clock and pay-day". Real success in their work is to them a matter of opportunity and luck. When someone achieves success, have you not heard people say: "the lucky stiff, I knew him when he did not have a dime". Yet, success is not a matter of luck, but the result of ambition and the necessary will power to work hard and consistently to realize one's dream.

Let me tell you the story of a fellow student I had the pleasure of knowing while I was in college. His first name was Karl; his full name does not matter.

Karl was 40 years old, when he entered the University to study mining engineering. Due to his age and experience, the school waived the entrance requirement of a High School diploma. His formal schooling, prior to entering the University, consisted of about two years primary training in some obscure country school.

When Karl was about fifteen, he went to sea as a sailor. He soon tired of this occupation and came back to his home town, doing odd jobs whenever he could get them. By the time he was twenty-one years old he had established himself as a ditch digger.

Now digging ditches does not seem to be an interesting way to earn one's living. Yet, Karl assured me that he really enjoyed digging ditches. When I was with him, he would occasionally talk about his early work as a ditch digger. He would grow thoroughly enthusiastic about the subject. Karl would enlighten you about the right and

wrong way to handle a pick and shovel. He would discuss the problem arising from different soil composition: To him a ditch was a work of art, that only an expert craftsman should attempt.

Karl, however, was not satisfied to keep on digging ditches. He knew that other men were laying out and planning the work for him. He enrolled with a correspondence school, taking a course in surveying. Yes, you guessed it; his previous schooling was not sufficient to prepare him for his course in surveying. Undaunted he took a High School course with the same school. He finished this course and then continued studying surveying. It was not long, before he laid down his pick and shovel and was working with a surveyor's transit. When Karl was in his early thirties he had established himself as a contractor and had become quite wealthy. He had acquired a piece of mining property and in order to manage it himself, he turned over his business to someone else to manage, while he attended the University to study mining engineering.

You can see that it was not luck that made a mining engineer out of a ditch digger, but it was his ambition, determination and a great deal of hard work.

If I have bored you with this story, I am sorry. The question I am asking you is: are you digging ditches and are you satisfied to keep on digging ditches the rest of your life?

F. H. Ponish

PERSONALS

Mr. Newell is back with us but is disgusted with his sling getting in the way of his work. Be patient until the hand is well is our advice to him.