



### **A DAY IN MY LIFE**

February 3, 2011

It's the third day of February already. Time for me to stop, as I sit here in comfort in my chair looking out the window on a day that is just now breaking dawn, to reflect and to write.

Yesterday, another of my ten high school classmates passed away: Rua (Jones) Bickford. Rua was the valedictorian of our class. She later owned the coffee shop in Northfield and kept track of the rest of us; where we were and what we were doing. She's the second in the past few months to pass on, the other being my closest school chum Neil Churchill. Neil was my best source of hometown news over the decades, until several years ago when he suffered a debilitating stroke. He died just two months ago.

I think another classmate, Paul Gorzokoski, is still in Northfield but I never hear from him. That leaves Carl Stone as the only contact with my old school mates. And Carl is older than the rest of us. It does tend to make me feel older, and sadder, to have lost so many family and friends this past couple of years, a dozen in 2010 alone.

But isn't that what life is all about? We're born, we spend a couple of decades trying to learn good and useful things, another couple putting our talents to their best use, another couple serving ourselves and society in general, and from then on making the most of our remaining indefinite years.

As for me, I cannot and will not complain. At every major fork in my life's road, God has guided me to the right one, the correct one. And I will not allow myself to wonder what "might have been" had I taken the other one, for there is no conceivable way of my knowing. This is not to imply that one can stumble through life without purpose; it is imperative that we observe and learn from the successes and failures of those in the past and those around us in the present. Further, while it is not good to be noncommittal, one should not be expectant. On the job, for example, on any job however big or small, one should avoid the appearance of seeking a better job but on "doing your best on the one that you have." It will more likely have the desired results.

Now I will go through my usual morning routines, and then see which of my many projects will appeal to me today. What a life!

*George A. Phelps*