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MELVIN JACK MURDOCK



AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Age Sixteen

Written March 23, 1934
by Jack Murdock

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Infancy

Sixteen years ago, on August the fifteenth, I came into the world. The first two weeks of my life were spent at the Good Samaritan Hospital, in Portland, Oregon, during which time my proud parents were overflowing with joy. My first home was a large two-story house, located one block north of Foster Road and Fifty-fifth Street.

I have been informed that I was at this time a most unruly lad. Although I slept by myself in a crib, I kept my mother and father awake many long weary hours during the night by my outbursts of crying.

During the second and third years of my life nothing of importance happened. My parents tell me that my greatest pleasure was pretending I was driving an automobile by using a button or tin can lid for the steering wheel, and by making a peculiar buzzing noise with my throat.

Early Characteristics

At the very early age of two, I made a trip with my parents to Nebraska for a visit to my many relatives, who lived in various sections of that state. I am told that I said many very funny things. At my grandma's house was a phonograph that I enjoyed playing greatly. For some reason not yet known to me, I would always refer to its music as wee-wee. After each record I would say, "More wee-wee," and everyone present, thinking this very humorous, would burst out laughing.

Since I was so young while in Nebraska, I remember very little of the happenings. The only thing I can actually remember was the big grindstone which my uncle had on his back porch. I would play with it by the hour. Possibly the reason it impressed me so much was that I had never before seen one.

My mother tells me that I had a very retentive mind in my early days. While a group of people in the front room were visiting, I would seem to be deeply interested in some toy I was playing with in the center of the floor.



*A tribute to my mother, Mae M. Murdock.
Your love and devotion obligates me
to dedicate this autobiography to you.*

Melvin Jack Murdock



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After the discussion had ceased, I would start repeating everything that had been said, surprising the audience much.

From the ages of two to four I had the habit of wanting to be carried. When walking down the street between my mother and father, I would take hold of their hands; and lift my feet off the ground, letting them carry me. This act was one of my favorites, but it irritated my parents much.

From Four to Seven

The next three years of my life were also spent in Portland, at Twenty-eighth and Clinton Streets, and later at Seventy-second and Lincoln Streets. During these years my greatest enjoyment came from riding my little automobile and tricycle. I believe that my excellent health at that time was due to the large amount of exercise received from riding these toys. It was on my tricycle that I made the serious mistake of running into old Heinie, our neighborhood grocer, while he was making deliveries with his arms loaded with groceries. What he said to me is past history.

In my sixth year I started to kindergarten, which was privately taught by my aunt. The most pleasing phase of this schooling was the daily passing around of the animal-cookie platter.

All through my early life I had only one great ambition: to some day become the president of the United States.

Grammar School Days

In my seventh year, the biggest undertaking of my life so far, was begun: I started to school, at Kellogg. Besides going to school I took dramatic art from a private teacher. At the age of eight I made my first public appearance, before a meeting of the Parent Teachers' Association. After attending Kellogg School two years, my family moved into another school district necessitating my entering Glencoe School. The next five years of school life

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were very pleasant. In addition to my regular studies I was privileged to be the school electrician, and took a leading part in most of the school programs. It was at this time that I first spoke over a radio station.

I graduated from Glencoe in a year less than the allotted time. I believe that I enjoyed my last term at Glencoe more than any other term in school, because I had more freedom.

High School Life

I had planned, as many of my associates, to enter Washington High School upon graduating from Glencoe, but I was influenced to enter Franklin at the insistence of my father, whose choice of this school was largely influenced by his friend, Mr. Stretcher, who is the clerk of school district number one.

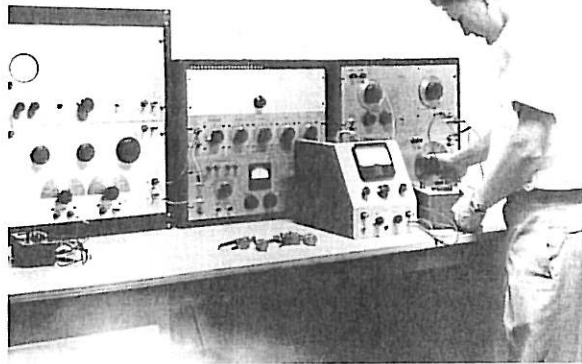
Since entering Franklin, many pleasant things have happened. Because of my good grades the first year, especially in typing, I received employment in the school cafeteria and the student body office. I also had the honor of being president of the Commerce Club for one term.

During this period of my life I found many friends with whom I played golf and tennis, talked over school work, discussed our future, and even teachers. So far in high school I believe I have understood all my teachers, with the exception of a certain mathematics teacher. I felt that she took undue advantage of me by making very uncomplimentary remarks about me before the class. Up to this time I had gained three scholarship pins, but at this stage my enthusiasm was broken for being a scholarship student.

The subjects in high school that most appeal to me are trigonometry and science, especially physics.

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My Hobby

Radio is my hobby. For the last year or two I have devoted many hours to reading on this subject. I have earned a considerable amount of radio equipment, such as tools, tube tester, set analysers, and various types of meters. This equipment not only enables me to repair radios quickly, but also aids me in the construction of sets.

Radio is, above all, most interesting to me. I have a work shop at home where every spare minute is spent. Only yesterday two radios were brought here to be fixed, from unsolicited customers. I cannot walk by a radio shop, broadcasting station or radio distributor without stopping to see if I can find out anything new in the radio field.

It is my expectation to establish my own shop after finishing school, which will be equipped to handle many kinds of home and auto radios, public address systems, and parts, in addition to having adequate facilities for all types of radio servicing.



My Ambition

After leaving high school and establishing a business of my own, I intend to go further into the study of radio phenomena. I would like to learn all there is to know about radio if it is possible. I shall probably carry on many experiments in this field, and also, possibly some other branches of science. If I do all that I hope to do, I shall probably make some inventions. I have at present several ideas for inventions, which if put into use would be of great benefit to the people of the world. Although these may not be possible, several other such ideas of mine already have been patented by other men and put into service. I believe that the possibilities of radio are unlimited, and that the majority of the people have no idea of what radio's future holds in store.

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