

**Table 1: Chronology of the Author's Life**

| Year(s)        | Author's Age(s) | Event   |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1936           |                 | Birth, in New York City; parents rent cottage owned by minister in Valhalla, N.Y.   |
| 1941           | 5               | Starts kindergarten at Valhalla Public School No. 1   |
| 1943           | 7               | Starts trumpet lessons  |
| 1945 (approx.) | 9               | Loses treasured "Gadget", his electrician's knife, suffering major trauma as a result   |
| 1946 (approx.) | 10              | Starts summer camp  |
| 1947           | 11              | Starts junior high school   |
| 1950           | 14              | Father dies of liver cancer   |
| 1951 -1952     | 15              | Attends Briarcliff High School, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. Start of "Music Days"  |
| 1952-1954      | 16-17           | Attends and graduates from White Plains High School, White Plains, N.Y.   |
| 1954, summer   | 17              | Works as professional musician in a hotel band in the Catskill Mountains, N.Y.  |
| 1954-1955      | 18              | Attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, N.Y., studying electrical engineering Plays in Dixieland band, "The Saints"   |
| 1955, summer   | 18              | Spends ten days under observation in Psycho Ward in Grasslands, N.Y.  |
| 1955-1960      | 19-23           | Attends Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., first as electrical engineering student, then as English major. Leads jazz group, "The Christmas City Six". Graduates with B.A. in English. End of "Music Days". |
| 1958           | 21              | First short story published, in Artesian magazine.  |
| 1960, summer   | 23              | Goes to California, gets job as technical writer at Beckman Instruments in Palo Alto.   |
| 1961           | 24              | Promoted to manager of his department.  |
| 1963           | 26              | Second short story published, in <i>Southwest Review</i> .  |

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| 1965      | 29              | Finishes comic novel, <i>Hooray for the Visiting Chairman</i> ; "almost" published.  |
| 1965      | 29              | Attends after-hours seminar on symbolic logic given by his boss, Manuel Gordon; starts teaching himself the elements of mathematics.   |
| 1966      | 30              | Marriage to Marcella.  |
| 1968      | 32              | Birth of son, Jeff.  |
| 1968-70   | 32-34           | Manager of technical publications dept. at Signetics, Sunnyvale, Calif.  |
| 1970      | 34              | Joins Hewlett-Packard Co. as technical writer. Writes manual for company's (and the world's) first Fourier Analyzer.   |
| 1972      | 36              | Becomes a computer programmer  |
| 1973      | 37              | Starts working on Master's degree (MS) in Computer Science at San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif., doing expository thesis on Scott and Strachey's Mathematical Semantics of Programming Languages |
| 1976      | 40              | Earns MS in Computer Science with grade-point average of 4.0 out of possible 4.0.  |
| 1980      | 44              | Decides to work on the hardest mathematical problems he can find, beginning with solving the Syracuse Problem and finding a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem.  |
| 1983-1988 | 47-52           | Lives with Kathy at his townhouse in Cupertino.  |
| 1988      | 52              | Moves to Berkeley, Calif.  |
| 1991      | 56              | Fired from Hewlett-Packard for attempting a palace-coup in technical writing department where he is employed.  |
| 1991      | 56              | His son graduates from UCLA and begins career as currency trader, for which he shows a gift  |
| 1992      | 57              | Works as contract technical writer for Franz Lisp in Berkeley, Calif.  |
| 1993      | 56              | Fired from Stat-View, Berkeley, Calif., for attempting to implement his ideas for improving documentation.   |

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| 1993-1995 | 56-58           | Works for Sybase in Emeryville, Calif., as a technical writer. Fired for attempting a palace-coup in his department, which he undertook in hopes that the next manager would allow him to apply his ideas for improved documentation.      |
| 1995      | 58              | His mother's lawyer almost manages to steal his inheritance  |
| 1995-1996 | 58-59           | Works for Wink in Alameda, Calif.. Is fired for attempting to implement his ideas for improved documentation. Retires and devotes his time to completing the nine books and several mathematics papers that he regards as his life's work. |
| 2000      | 64              | Meets Gaby through Classical Musical Lovers Exchange   |
| 2001      | 65              | Mother dies at the age of 96   |
| 2003      | 67              | Almost loses his life's savings as a result of fraud and embezzlement by management of real estate loan firm he had invested in for more than 20 years   |
| 2003      | 67              | Kay, loyal caretaker of his mother for ten years, dies of starvation in run-down hotel in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.   |
| 2003 —    | 67 —            | Continues labor of completing his life's work  |
| 2006      | 70              | His son (age 38) has his best year ever as a currency trader   |