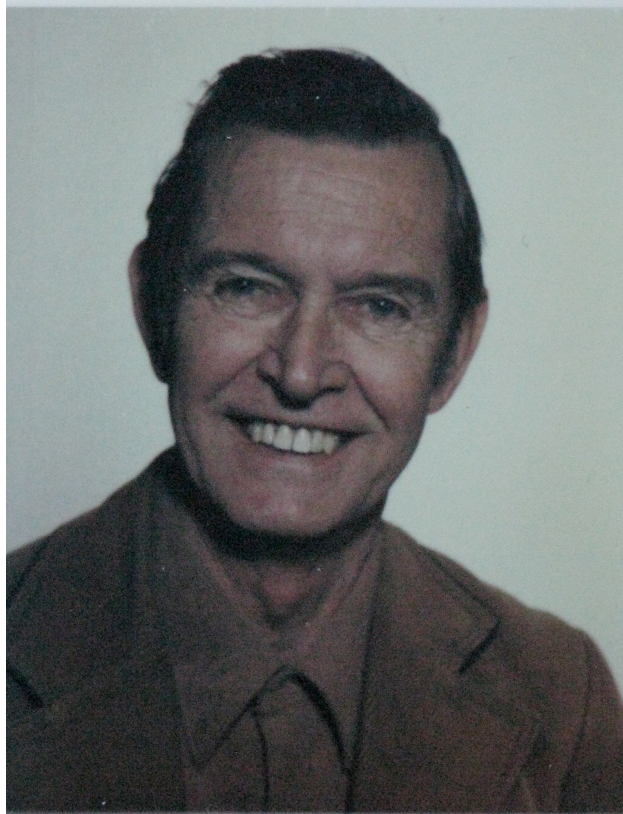


Leaves from a Life Well-lived

In Loving Memory of Richard R. Paseman



Arranged by Bill and Gerhard Paseman

The Early Years: Michigan, the Depression, Texas

Born in Saginaw, Michigan to Bill and Hilda Paseman. Richard (Dick) had an older half-brother Bill Douglass. The Great Depression hit when Dick was 4 years old, greatly influencing him. His father had trouble finding work in Michigan, so he moved down to Texas for work, and later Dick and his brother followed.



Bill and Dick, ca 1927

One story Dick often told was of “an endless stickball game”, where neighborhood kids would continually rotate in and out.

Here follows one of Dick's unpublished writings

The Lesson

In the late 30's the magazine "Boy's Life" had plans for a small boat that could be made from a couple of sheets of plywood. It had a flat bottom and high sides so was difficult if not impossible to turn over.

There was enough room for a man and a boy and a small dog. It was light enough that a man and boy could carry it - especially if the man was strong and my Dad was that for sure.

I never wanted anything more, before or since than that boat. God it was beautiful - and so simple to make that I could do it all by myself if Dad would just let me use his tools. There was a large oak tree in the back of the apartment we lived in that would be an ideal work shop.

Money was kind of a problem but I already had about half from doing odd jobs. Times were kind of tough - even hard working Dad wasn't working steady. If people had money they would hire a kid but there wasn't a lot of loose money around.

Mr. Parker at the machine shop would let me sweep up once in awhile and Curly's Pool Hall let me clean out the spittoons before they got too full. All I had to do was get more work and the money problem would go away. I could already hear the water slapping against the boat and feel the sea breezes.

Mr. Moffit at the O.S.T. cafe and Ruby Thomas at the liquor store and Ernest Blue at the shoe shop all gave me some small jobs to do when I told them I was going to build a boat. The dream was getting close to be a reality!

When Dad found out how determined and excited I was about the boat and what great things would happen once we had a boat he kind of caught the spirit too.

Just a few more screws and the oars and the boat would be finished and Dad knew how to make the oars. Everything was going my way.

Dad had to go to Western Auto to get some stuff and I went with him and stole a package of screws. At the checkout counter, Dad told me to go and get a package of wood screws. I told him we already had some and didn't need any more. He insisted I get a package of screws.

Reluctantly I reached in my pocket and put the screws on the counter. The silence was deafening.

As we left the store Dad said to me "Son, that man has to make a living too". And that was all he said. Over sixty years later I still remember that one sentence and the soft way he said it.

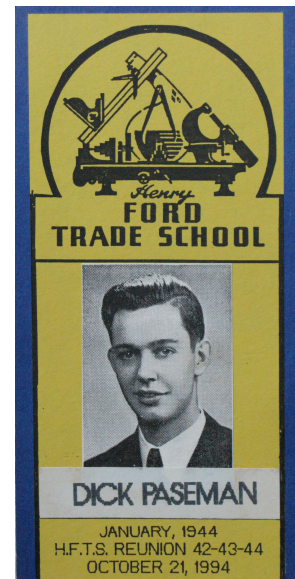
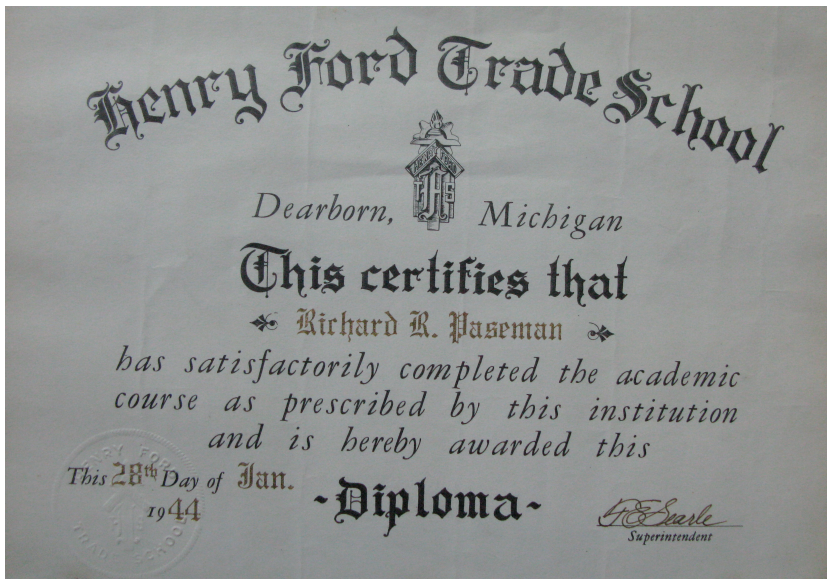
The boat was really great. We made a bigger boat after the war that would handle 2 outboard motors but I still think the rowboat was more fun.

The lessons - Dreams can come true if you work on them and just as important - Everybody has to make a living. Also I never tried to steal anything ever again.

Dick Paseman

Trade School and the Merchant Marines

Dick went to several different schools in Texas, but at age 14 refused to follow one principal's dictum to repeat 8th grade. He then joined Ford Trade School in 1940 and graduated four years later, after which he joined the Merchant Marines.



Interlude: The Government and Me

Dick may have had some positive experiences with local, state, or federal government; we're still looking for those. In the mean time, here is a fragment of the FBI file on him.

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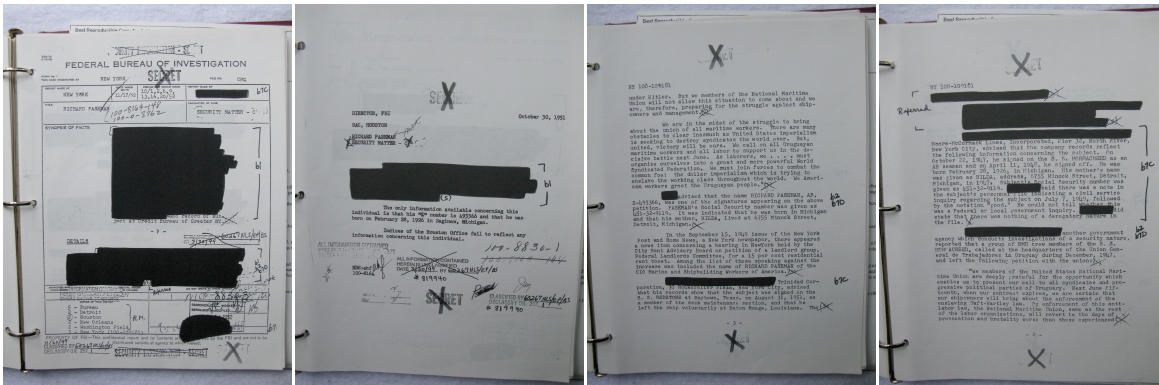
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK** FILE NO. **CMQ**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/17/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/1,2,6,9, 13,16,20/52	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE RICHARD PASEMAN 100-8164-148 100-0-8762			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [REDACTED]			



Some excerpts from his "The Government and Me":

"The state sales tax people come out and check your books every 2 or 3 years so the next time they came out they sent a beautiful blond and a guy. They were only here for a couple of hours if that, but I told her to come back any time you want. But she never did."

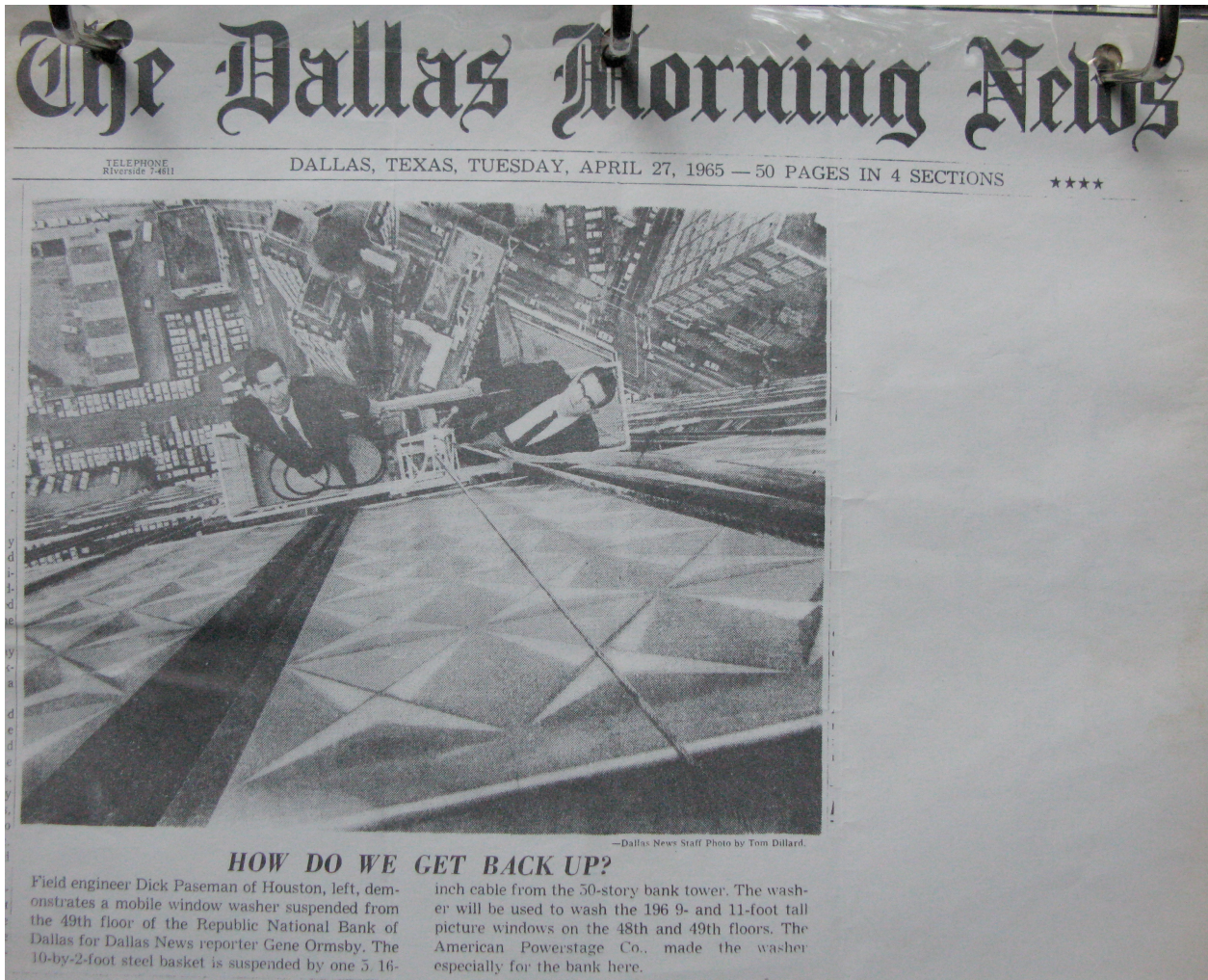
"The I.R.S. regulations are so complex that even their people don't understand them. I have received duns from them and have answered with a nasty letter more than once and then my accountant would straighten them out and he has asked me to never write them again."

Cleaning, Painting, and Coating

After leaving the Merchant Marines, Dick took on various jobs, some union related, and often involving some form of painting and other maintenance work.

Dick learned rigging while in the navy and was a natural for steeplejack work. He started by painting flagpoles and moved on to bridges. After a few years he migrated to sales, and he spoke often of his first real sales break being at Spider Staging, where he sold power scaffolding to replace the old rope-and-pulley systems. He and John Goss then started their own company, American Powerstage. They then pioneered the water-jetting market by creating American Aero, which sold water blasters.





Where did Dick's watch go?



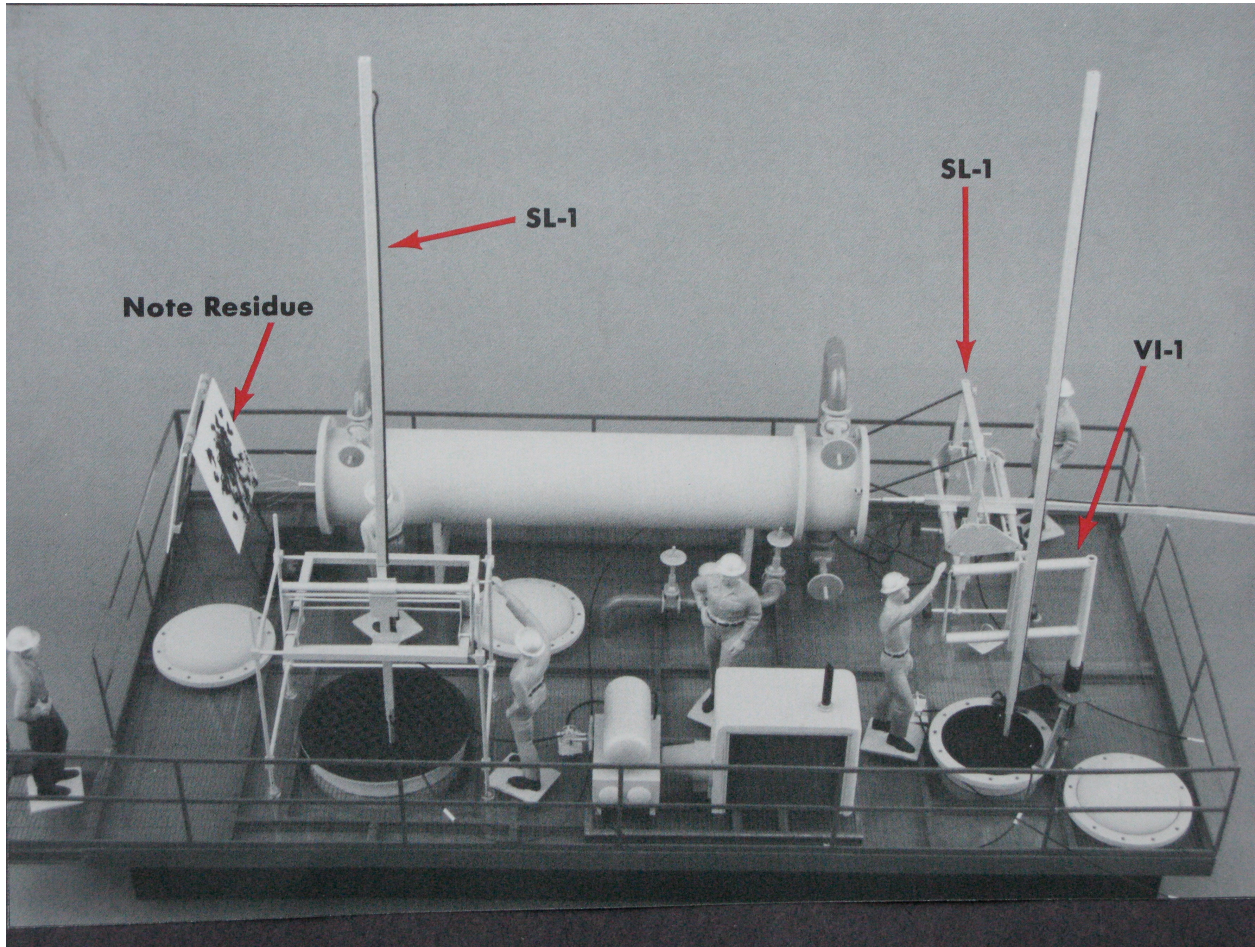
Family Time

Sorry: no baby pictures. We do have a nice photo with his wife Waltraud, when they were sponsoring Grace Chin Chow from Taiwan who got married in America. (Waltraud is on the far right.)



A safer and better way: Powerlance

After leaving American Aero in 1976, Dick took some time off and looked for a new business to start. After trying a few sales jobs, he found a device that just needed some improvements to do a better job. The job was cleaning heat exchanger tube bundles, the improvements were an operator-friendly indexing frame with remote foot-pedal control and lance stops for safety, and the device became known as the Powerlance.



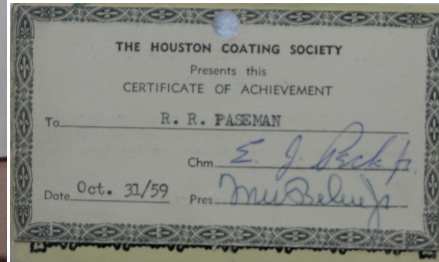
Leaves from a Life Well-lived



He patented the improved system, manufactured it, and leased it and sold it worldwide. He ran the companies American Powerlance and Powerlance International for over 16 years.

Society Time

Dick was a union member, belong to several societies, started some clubs, and had his efforts recognized by others. The pictures below are but a small sampling.

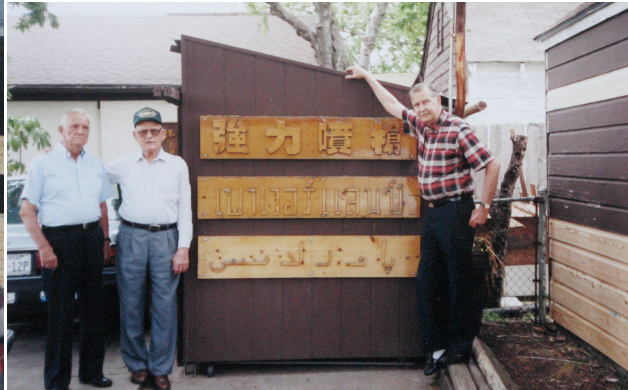


Dick giving an IMI presentation, 1982



Shoveling Sand against the Tide, or Social Change

Dick also was politically active, or so the FBI thought (see above). In addition to his union work, he looked to promote reform where he thought it was most needed. He supported organizations such as HALT and CALA, which were against abuses of the legal system. He also was a member of the Reform Party and a regional chairman. (Please don't forget your complimentary copy of the Perot books before you leave.) One of his later efforts was to promote the banishment of federal earmarks and devoting the funds instead to bridge and highway maintenance and repair.



Patron of charitable causes

One of Dick's wishes was that people remember him by "doing a little more for the organization of their choice". Below is a sampling of some of the causes Dick supported. You are invited to fulfill his wish as you think best.



Dick and Jeannine

Dick had many friends. The most special to him was Jeannine Berube, who was with him for over 20 years. The picture below was taken in Hong Kong, one of the many places he and Jeannine visited.

