

SUMMARY

I found this book **fascinating** and I want to share a few facts with you. I'm only relating 1% of the book. J D Rockefeller Jr. was so **different from anyone today** it is astounding. He was **Bill Gates, Warren Buffet** and others multiplied several times. I don't think he ever used the word "**greed**", yet we use it everyday. He was probably the most **highly respected man on the planet** for his honesty and integrity. I can't think of a contemporary person making the contribution to mankind like he did.

My thoughts have 3 parts; 1) His **FORMATIVE YEARS**, 2) his **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** & 3) **HIS PERSONALITY TRAITS**

FORMATIVE YEARS

Father came from poverty, made a huge fortune in oil and other industries and gave a lot away. Richest man in the world. Born in affluence 1874 in Cleveland.

Raised by mother values of honest and integrity . Father spent time horseback, swimming, games – companion & friend. Children revered their father –Sr.

Church very, very important. 4 services per week. Mother supervised infant Dept & father Sunday school superintendent.

Sun. Cold meal and no work for maids. Sun read Christian books. No cards, games, or studying. etc. Sunday was a happy day and family day. **WHAT A CHANGE FROM TODAY'S WORLD.**

No drink or smoking through adulthood.

Jr. taught bible class in college.

Jr, spoke of his mother as a saint.

Learn ethics from mother & dad and grandparents.

As a boy he wrote down every expenditure he made and time spent on chores. Continued into his 20's. Very detailed person.

Took lots of family trips to western US and Europe and Jr. observed intently and learned a lot from the trips.

A teacher taught Jr. how to summarize his reading of major points into notebooks which helped him greatly in later years.

Attended Brown University and lived in a dormitory with 3 other fellows.

He enjoyed Music , singing, plays, leadership, church, danced and hosted dances, girls, became more social, good scholar,

Jr. class President, Chaired beer party for class with a responsible amount of beer which had not been done before. Still didn't drink or smoke.

Graduated from college and went to work in father's office and father never gave him direction of what he was to do.

Mr. Gates who worked for Sr. was very helpful and formative to Jr.

Office was three rooms, shabby and had 10 employees. **NOT PRETENCIOUS** which was the Rockefeller way.

Learned accounting, projects his father was working on and businesses he owned, remodeled houses for father, helped father with philanthropy.

Learned to be very competent business man and very ethical and honest.

Sr. and Jr. worshiped each other.

Excellent letter writer. When he might have 3-4 revisions of a letter. It had to be perfect. He was a perfectionist.

HE WAS A MASTER OF DETAIL AND A PERFECTIOIST. He measured everything and carried a 4' ruler constantly. It was difficult to delegate details to others. He never paid even a small bill if he didn't understand every item.

Married at the age of 26 a very capable woman he dated in college.

He became a director of many of his father's companies.

He very competently negotiated the sale his father's Mesabi iron interests gaining experience and favorable reputation.

Sr, transferred more tasks and responsibilities to Jr. telling him "Follow your own best judgment".

Jr. bought many square blocks adjacent to the Univ. of Chicago so his father could give them to the University.
Jr. created the Rockefeller Institute to research medicine.
Jr. created the General Education Board to fund black & white education in the south which Sr. funded.
Jr. created the Rockefeller Foundation to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world which Sr. funded with \$100 million.
Jr. gained experience in being a director, huge company sales, buying large tracts of real estate, medicine, education, human welfare world wide, and other projects to numerous to mention. He was prepared to initiate his own philanthropy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS He tackled the humanitarian problems of his time.

He lead a **bible class** of 200 participants for years.

He gave the largest gift given to the Congregational Board of Foreign Ministries to foster **religious denominations to cooperate**.

He built a laboratory for **social hygiene**.

In 1923 the United Mine Workers **struck** a company in which Jr. had substantial ownership. He spent weeks on site talking with management and labor. Hired an independent expert in labor relations. He was the first person to convince the government and the company the workers that had the right to air their grievances against management. This enhanced his reputation as being a very fair person. He continued an interest in labor relations.

He created the Interchurch World Movement to get Protestants, **Catholics, and Jews to cooperate** with each other. He funded a fact finding study that was very critical about the selfishness of denominations in **missionary work** overseas.

He personally **ousted the chairman of Standard Oil** over corruption which was unheard of up to that time. He raised the bar for integrity of all executives.

He personally financed 14 buildings in **Rockefeller Ctr.** over coming many problems. Original plan was to replace the opera house and that fell through. The depression came and he could not get financing so he did it all with his own money. Renters backed out of leases. One reason was to give ¼ mil workers jobs resulting in excellent labor relations.

He spent \$50 mil equivalent to 5 times that today **restoring Williamsburg** which was the most ambitious restoration project ever done in America. This was a very personal project on which he spent a great deal of time on details of approving of buying property and restoration. On one occasion the contractor restored a building 6' off the original foundation. Jr. said rebuild it on the correct location. This was typical of his attention to detail. In later years he spent 3-4 weeks per year living at Williamsburg.

He **restored** a crumbling **Versailles, Fontainebleau and Rheims** in FR because of their historical significance.

He contributed land and developed Jackson hole WY, Acadia **Park** ME, Palisades NY, Sequoias CA, & Yosemite which prevented commercial development of the precious park. Jr. approached road building on his estates as a science. The Park depts. used his designs for roads which were very durability.

He built the Cloisters which is a part on the Metropolitan **Museum** in NY was built and 90% of the contents were contributed by him. He also contributed lavishly to other museums including the Cairo Museum.

He contributed time and money to International **Education** Board, General Education board, United Negro College Fund, Rockefeller Institute for **Medical Research**, numerous universities including those in Europe, Mmn. Curie for cancer research using radium. He contributed the study of atomic physics, agriculture, humanities, and the Mount Palomar telescope.

Started Sunday suppers for **foreign students** and built them several dormitories including one in Paris so they could interface with each other to make them feel more welcome in this country.

He built and endowed the **library for the League Of Nations** in Geneva.

The **United Nations** needed **acreage** for a building in NY. On the deadline date, Nelson who was on the site selection committee call his dad, Jr. at 7:00 PM. and asked if the family would be willing to donate the family estate for the building because there was no other site. Jr. asked if that was the best site and Nelson told him no it should be located down town. Jr. called a developer who had property he intended to develop who was giving a dinner party. He wrote out the option to purchase on the back of a blueprint. Jr. signed it the next morning at breakfast. Jr. bought it and gave it to the United Nations in a time frame of 12 hours. The Cleveland news wrote

there was only one man in the world that could settle the quarrel over the site of the United Nations and that is John D. Rockefeller. This tells us a lot about the integrity of Jr.

In 1917 the YMCA, YWCA, Knights of Columbus Jewish Welfare Board, War Community Chest, American library Assoc., and Salvation Army were bickering over how to raise money to serve the **soldiers of WW I**. Lots of ideas were proposed but Jr. did not think any of them were workable. He conceived the idea similar to the current United Way but the YMCA would not accept it. On evening at a dinner party he called the head of the Y, talked for 45 minutes and the Y agreed to the plan. Jr. was the chair of the fund raising which raised \$170 m. Jr. was probably the only person to do this.

He gave away approximately \$400 m in 1920 dollars.

Summarize accomplishments

This is not a complete list, only a sample of Jr.'s interests.

PERSONALITY, The traits of the man himself.

He was simple, modest and humble. He was compassionate for other religions.

He did not **vacation** as we think of it. For relaxation he would change projects and live in different homes but not loaf. He thought time spent for pleasure was a waste of time. He learned duty and responsibility from his mother.

His father coached him to give up **details of projects** which he could never do. He was fascinated with details and if there was something he did not know, he learned about it. Like carrying the 4' rule.

He was a great **decision maker** and never anguished over a poor or past decision.

He was very forceful in debating his position but when votes went against his position he supported the majority position. He was flexible, modest, unpretentious and not dogmatic. He was not arrogant. Flattery annoyed him.

He did not want **publicity**. He would not accept honorary degrees from any University other than Brown where he graduated. If an organization wanted to honor him he insisted it be done in private, not at a public dinner. Lack of privacy may have been his greatest disappointment. He did many project secretly to avoid the publicity.

He had given a large sum of money to restore Versailles. He went there to check on progress at closing time and was told the doors would be closing. He did not tell them who he was, went back to Paris and came back the next day.

He frequently **praised his loyal associates** rather than taking credit for himself.

He had some **major disappointments** with some of the organizations and projects he gave to but he realized that was part of philanthropy and overlooked those disappointments and never stopped giving.

He had great **pride of his family** and they adored and prided in him.

He considered his **life a stern duty**, answerable to an uncompromising and exacting conscience which was formulated by his parents in his early years.

What concerned him was the hard, practical problem of how to **dispose of his wealth** in ways that would advance public good. To this end he drove himself relentlessly.

He was probably the most **highly respected man on the planet** for his honesty and integrity.

The man that knew his the best other than his family wrote a note to himself "**I have known no man who entered life more absolutely dominated by his sense of duty, more diligent in the quest of the right path, more eager to follow it at any sacrifice.**"