

There are many aspects to a life that I could talk about. I'm going to comment on career, retirement, and interests.

He had a very productive career with his brother Merrick operating a dairy farm in Little Compton. This farm was well respected among people involved in agriculture in Little Compton, throughout Newport County, and beyond. Also, my father became active in many farming related organizations such as Farm Bureau and American Dairy Association.

One job he had prior to joining Merrick, who had managed this farm for several years before my father joined him, was with the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, or DHIA. It is much different today, but in the 1940's a DHIA technician visited each of about 25 member farms once a month to collect information including weighing the milk from each cow at both milkings in a 24 hour period, which he did by arriving at a farm for the late afternoon milking and sleeping over for the early morning milking.

Another job was as an assistant teacher in a high school shop in western Massachusetts. That reflected one of his greatest skills and favorite activities, working on machines.

Moving on to retirement, he is something of a hero at the gym where he still works out twice a week and astounds people with his ability. Probably this exercise has contributed to his longevity and ability to pursue his interests.

Best known of his retirement interests is his collection of cars and other machines and the work he does on them. These include his 1920 Dodge

Brothers, his 1937 LaSalle (which he sold to my brother, Peter, recently), his 1929 Lincoln, several other cars, and a Standard walking tractor, which you might have seen at a Smith Neck Friends Meeting Farm Day. Rather than restore his cars back to showroom condition (when not already restored), he maintains them in running condition while retaining the original car where he can.

It might surprise you that his first adventure in interesting cars was way back about 1941 when he bought a 1923 Lincoln for his everyday use. The huge technological advances between 1923 and 1941 plus the level of luxury in a Lincoln in 1923 made a 1923 Lincoln in 1941 very noticeable and quite impractical.

Another early example was about 1950 when he bought my mother a 1948 Hillman. Actually, it was mostly practical and my mother came to really like it; but it was certainly unusual. Hillmans were rare in the US; and British cars were more different from American cars than they are today. Among many differences, the shift pattern was the reverse of the American Standard.

This presentation has not done justice to the variety of his interests and it is not at all accurate to define him as limited to mechanical and agricultural pursuits. Just for example, he is proud of his letters to the editor published in the paper on various topics of concern.