

# BIOGRAPHY - DON POWELL

I was a nerd in high school. I had tape holding my glasses together, a pronounced Adam's apple and I was in the chess club. It wasn't so bad thanks to my close circle of about 15 friends that I really enjoyed. I won't name names because they may not own up to it. Since they can't speak up for themselves, I'll name the ones that are gone - Marc Davidson, Greg Marr, Stu Nance, Rod Slaughter. Many of the rest are missing or still in jail. I miss them all very much. I made good grades in high school, especially math, and, in fact, was offered a few scholarships. Unfortunately, I lacked the maturity to think about my future and did not take advantage of the opportunities that I had. Bad decision? I don't know - I've had a good time.

I left home right after I graduated and went to Texas Western College/UTEP for about 8 years majoring in Business Administration while working at Safeway. I didn't focus on college but rather went the fraternity/party route. Safeway was good to me and I worked my way up the ranks to store manager. At the time a Safeway store manager made more money than a college grad and there was a possibility for more advancement. I enjoyed the grocery business especially the three years I was "S" brands merchandising manager where I traveled a lot around New Mexico and Texas opening new stores. I met my wife, Bobbie, and decided that a lot of traveling was not good for a marriage so I went back into the stores. The grocery business changed and I became tired of it so when Furr's bought us out, I took my retirement and bought a printing business, Northeast Printing. Owning your own business is very hard and frustrating at times but is very rewarding. My only regret is that we couldn't get away for vacations. In 22 years I had only a one week vacation with my wife. I had plenty of long weekends and we took several weeks individually so it wasn't en-

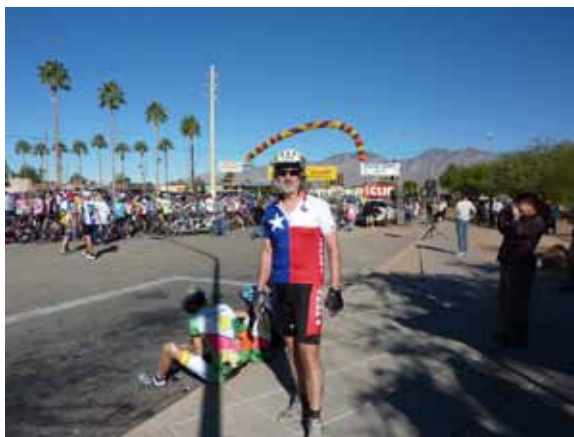
tirely bad. To me the printing business was and is a very respectful business. Benjamin Franklin, after all his achievements, wanted the word "Printer" on his headstone and Time's Man of the Millennium was a lowly printer by the name of Johannes Gutenberg. One of the things I enjoyed the most was the opportunity to meet and associate with many businessmen around El Paso. If I had my life to do over again, I would get a business degree from Harvard Business School and start a company. I was not cut out to be a lawyer, doctor or the like. My heroes are the developers and entrepreneurs that risk everything to succeed. They are the ones that build the cities and invent the Apples that improve our lives.

I was in the printing business for 22 years and finally decided to retire. Since then Bobbie and I are catching up on all the traveling we have missed. I am reading more and exercising more. I enjoy riding my bicycle, shooting my gun, running and swimming. I enter bike tours around the Southwest and several Sprint Triathlons. I enjoy the computer and have taught myself Adobe Dreamweaver so I can set up web sites for clubs and friends. I am active in Rotary and work with the projects my club thinks of. I spent a week last year at a camp for boys sponsored by Rotary and will probably do it again.

Well, there you have it. Not quite as exciting as some of the other bios but that's all I got. Other than 7 years in New Mexico I have spent my life in El Paso, I've only had two jobs, one wife and no kids. I have had a lot of friends and have had a good time. I plan on continuing my association with Rotary, reading, traveling and participating in sports as long as I can. I am thinking about taking up chess again just to keep what's left of the ol' brain cells working.



Bobbie and I relaxing in Vegas



Waiting for the start of the Tour de Tucson



My wife Bobbie  
at a baseball game



I'd be lying if I said that I didn't like beer. This is  
from some brewery on Bourbon Street, New Orleans



Bobbie and I outside of a Mimi's restaurant  
in Palm Springs, California



Waiting for the ride to start - Albuquerque



Outside of Frank Lloyd Wright's house - Scottsdale, AZ



Backpacking in Colorado with two friends - Greg and Maggie