



THE DISTELFINK – My Father

June 18, 2009

For those of you who did not know him, I want to give you a glimpse of my Father, Spencer D. Wright III, through lessons learned by Lou Denton, his business partner for 19 years, and the closest person I have to a brother. Lou and I were both powerfully influenced by our admired mentor.

Lou shared this wisdom some years ago after my Father passed away, and with his permission, I want to share it to you too.

“While working with Spencer I learned:

- ...Real men could wear garters.
- I learned that all champagne is good, but some is better than others.
- I learned how to tie a bow tie.
- I learned that to have a gay time is simply that...having a gay time.
- I learned that having too few bartenders at a party is not good.
- I learned that Spencer, Spence, Sonny, Pere, and Deary were all the same person.
- I learned that Williams College was a most excellent school and that Amherst was not quite there yet.
- I learned that honest and honorable folks populate the securities business.
- I learned that “men of business” should wear shoes with laces.
- I learned that an unexpired passport is required for international travel.
- I learned that California would someday become an island.”

As you can see, I come from somewhat idiosyncratic stock, my Father being a by-product of the eras in which he grew up and the values instilled in him. My Father was loving, loyal, never fashion forward, forgetful, quite social (okay, the man liked to throw parties!), and honest to his core.

My Father was a man of business from the day he got out of the Army, following his college years, until the day he died. He loved his profession and the firms for which he worked. He started at Wright Wood & Company with his Father, then merged it into Hopper Soliday & Co., and finally founded Philadelphia Corporation, all securities, or brokerage firms, in which he was a partner and owner. His Father was a great teacher and mentor to him, and he became the same to so many others in the span of his almost sixty year career. He adored his professional colleagues, those with whom he worked directly, and those at related organizations. Most of all though, he treasured his clients, or “customers”, as he called them. He was more than just an advisor to many of them. He was a friend and someone they could trust to make sound recommendations and grow their money wisely. He embodied how to make a difference in his customers’ financial

lives, so it is from him I take my inspiration today, as I teach my own children, and work with my clients to make astute and lasting financial decisions.

Thank you, Dad, and Happy Father's Day to all!

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