

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

20 “*Are you coming to work here?*”

I graduated from Law School in 1951. Beginning lawyers were not in demand. When one sole practitioner offered me a job, and then called shortly afterward asking, “*Are you coming to work here?*” I quickly agreed.

The office was in a large downtown building, which in those days had spittoons in the hallways and elevator operators. The pay was \$250 per month and one-fourth of all the business I could generate. That netted me an additional \$150 the first year!

I had no concept at the time how much that phone call, and my response, would impact my entire professional career. Early training by our parents sets the values and disciplines that affect our thoughts and actions throughout all our lives. And initial bosses have great influence on the values and disciplines we will use throughout our work lives. Our first job is *very* important.

Fortunately for me, my employer was an honest man. He modeled ethical behavior and never asked me to do anything improper or questionable. He gave me direction but great freedom to learn. His longtime secretary showed me the practical side and kept me from making too many first-time mistakes.

The older attorney died years ago. But I only recently attended the funeral of his faithful secretary. Sitting there I thought again of how much those two had affected my life.

I shall always be grateful for the phone call, the offer, and the people who started me in the right direction.

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin