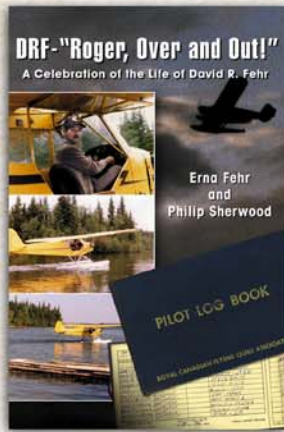


Excerpt from:

DRF—"Roger, Over and Out!" A Celebration of the Life of David R. Fehr

(used with permission)
Tribute book. 187 pages, 56 photographs, Soft bound. 2005.



"I can't remember the exact date, but I remember he said, 'Will you marry me?' He had to ask my parents' permission—that was pretty important. But he was scared to face them! Several times he started to go, he'd walk down to the corner and then stop and say, 'I can't do this! Let's go back!' I don't know why he was scared, I still don't understand. He was brave, he could talk and joke to anybody, but he was very shy, somehow. He finally told me: 'If you make an appointment with your parents, then I'll have to go.'

"So I made the appointment and he visited them and talked, but he said that his throat got really dry when the time came to ask them! He finally did and my parents said yes. They liked Dave. I said yes too! We had talked it through already and we knew we wanted to get married. We then got engaged—December 15th, 1962—and about three weeks later we got married. It happened quite quickly, but this short period of engagement was normal among the Mennonites of Menno Colony.

"On January 4th, 1963, Dave's uncle, Bernhard Toews (a preacher), married us at my parents' home, as this was how weddings were commonly celebrated in those days. Dave was twenty-one years old and I was nineteen. We invited about two hundred friends, neighbours, and family. The bride and guests did not wear formal clothes, just normal clothes. We borrowed tables and benches from the school, and used metal sheets to make shade. It was all outside.

"We had borsch and mouss—it's German. Also cold meat and buns, coffee, some cookies, and some sweets. My parents had to pay for it all. We didn't dance, because we didn't believe in that. And we didn't have a honeymoon, because we'd never heard of a honeymoon!"



"Many people talk about writing their stories—they'll do it one day—but never get around to it."



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Mark Twain



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What is a Personal History?

Also known as a life story, it's an account of someone's life, as told by him or her in a permanent format. It may be an autobiography or just a "slice" of life—a memoir. Above all, it's a story—full of the emotions, feelings, descriptions, memories, thoughts, and passions that make up a life.

Why Should I Tell My Story?

People tell their stories for many reasons.

- **It's fun!** Most storytellers enjoy the experience. They also like the attention they receive from those who read their stories!
- **An opportunity for personal growth.** For many, it's a chance to reflect and make sense of their lives and the influences that have shaped them.
- **To be more than a twig on a family tree.** Perhaps life has cast them in a certain role—an aunt, professional, or parent—where their individuality has been largely ignored. By preserving their stories, they hope to be remembered for who they are.
- **To leave a legacy.** The compelling desire to pass on stories, values, life lessons, and family traditions to the next generation motivates many storytellers. For some, their recorded life story is the most valuable legacy they can leave their loved ones—an heirloom of sorts that strengthens family relationships and provides an historical record.
- **It's deeply rewarding.** Storytellers have described the experience as being "empowering, liberating, satisfying, therapeutic, transformational, meaningful, and healing." It helps many live more purposeful lives.

What do Personal Historians Do?

They help you tell your story the way you want it told and then preserve it. They take care of the details so that you can concentrate on telling your story.

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- **All you do is tell your story.** We'll do the rest. A friendly interviewer records your stories and then crafts the transcript, along with any additional research and documents, into an engaging narrative that retains your voice and character. Our book designer then custom-formats the manuscript, inserts photos and documents, and oversees the printing and binding.
- **You'll avoid serious mistakes.** We help you avoid ethical, legal, and logistical pitfalls, so that your storytelling venture is a success.
- **You'll enjoy the experience.** We are experts at making an otherwise challenging task relaxed and just plain fun.
- **You'll retain control.** We do the work, yet you maintain full control. We custom-design the project according to your expectations and budget, consulting with you every step of the way. You always have the final say.
- **You'll work with ethical professionals.** We maintain high ethical standards, ensuring privacy and confidentiality.
- **Your story will be preserved.** The first and most compelling reason. The dream will become a reality—your story preserved in a custom-designed book that has enduring value. A true gift to yourself and future generations.

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Projects and Services



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Projects

- **Life stories and memoirs.** Tell your life story, or a slice of it.
- **Family histories.**
- **Ethical wills.** Pass on your hopes and values.
- **Corporate histories.** Document the past and celebrate the progress of your business or organization.
- **Tribute book.** Honour a loved one.
- **Special events.** Anniversaries, weddings, births, deaths, and more.

Services

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- Transcribing interview tapes
- Editing transcripts into a narrative
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- Revision and proofreading
- Photo and document scanning
- Book and cover design
- Print coordination—overseeing printing and binding
- Coaching—helping you write your story