

Preparing for the Future

Associate Professor John Preston

Anticipating Change



- Use extrapolation to project trends but be prepared for big changes
- Expect singular, world-changing events for the better
 - Cure for cancer
 - Cure for aging
 - Cure for the common cold and flu
- Or for the worse
 - Terrorists destroy a major city
 - Natural disasters: meteor strike, major volcano
 - Cyber attack disables the Internet

Computers Will become Part of Us

- Cochlear implants for sound
- Retinal stimulation for sight





Human – Computer Interface

Brainwaves and voice replace keyboards





Mind-control car

Develop Your Ability to Learn

- □ GIGO: Garbage in—garbage out
- Get balanced news and factual information
- Seek a global perspective
- Avoid "news" that is designed to frighten or make you feel insecure
- Avoid advertising that is designed to make you dissatisfied—appreciate how rich you are
- Listen to those with whom you disagree they might be right. At the least, you can practice patience.



Get the Most out of the Good Teachers

- Become known to them
 - Office hours
 - Ask questions
 - Clubs and activities
- Ask their advice
- Take their classes
- Ask for a recommendation



Pursue Happiness

- □ Work
 - Try different things to see what you like
 - Pick at least two of them
 - Look for a career where the two interests intersect;
 be unusual
- Choose a Life Partner Carefully
 - Be a complete person yourself
 - Consider qualifications before you meet new people
 - Many people love how the other person makes them feel instead of loving the other person
 - Learn how to make love instead of just having sex



Pursue Happiness

Children

- Learn about caring for them before you have them
- Volunteer to help with other people's children
- Be prepared to have your life changed
- Friends and Family
 - Devote time to making friends
 - Keep in touch with friends
 - Mend fences within families where possible

Plan Effectively

- Goals: General statements
- Measurable objectives
 - Long-term objectives (years) met with strategies
 - Short-term objectives (months) met with tactics
- Evaluate objectives
- Revise strategies and tactics or choose new objectives



Avoid the Big Mistakes

- Unexpected pregnancy
- Marrying:
 - the wrong person
 - for the wrong reason
 - at the wrong time
- □ Life-long diseases
 - Herpes
 - Chlamydia female sterility
 - Drug Addiction (smoking, hard drugs)
- Life-ending mistakes
 - Drunk driving
 - Lung cancer







- Decide what you will not do—even if you are scared or threatened
- Decide what you will do—even if you are the only one
- Be proud of who you are
- Forgive yourself when you fail
- If your life isn't working, assess your basic assumptions. Do something differently.

Seek Inspiration

- Pick a role model
- Aspire to become someone to be proud of



The American Dream

- Son of a sharecropper
- Lived in a one-room cabin
- Chose to repeat 8th grade
- Walked 5.4 miles to High School for two years

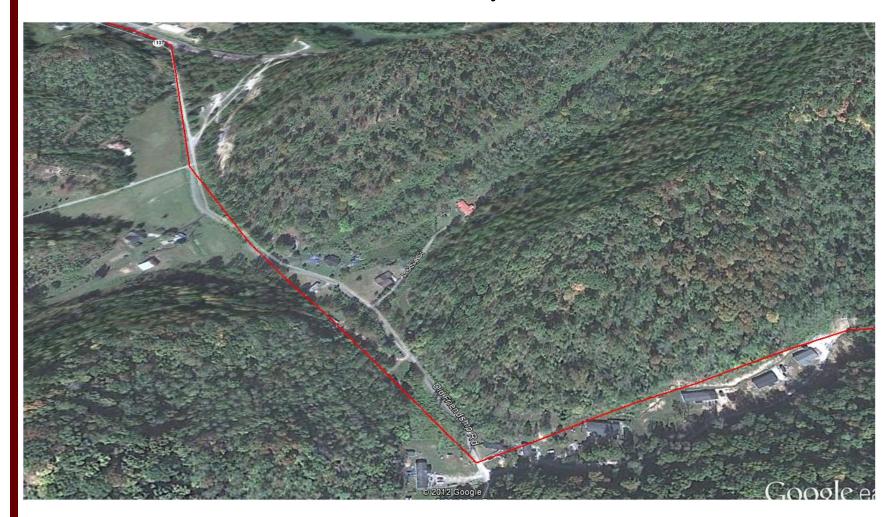


Mitchell John Preston 1907-2005

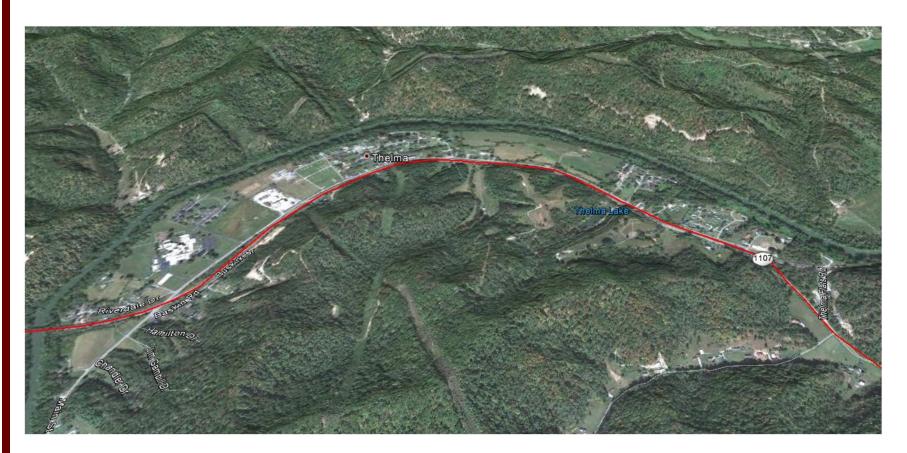
"...The first leg of the trip was up the hill and down the other side.
...when we had snow we not only dug in with our feet but clawed and pulled with our hands. For the next hour and forty—five minutes we would press on toward school through sun, wind, snow, sleet, hail, rain, freezing cold "



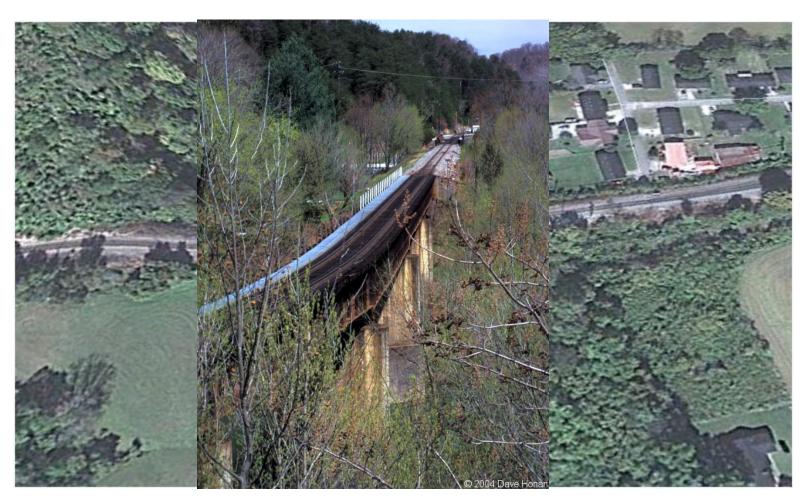
"At the foot of the hill...we had a quarter mile long pasture...from there we had a half-mile down the dirt country road to the railroad."



"...we had the option of walking on the county road for a couple of miles or walking on the railroad. It was customary, since a big part of the year the county road was shoe top deep with mud, to walk on the railroad."

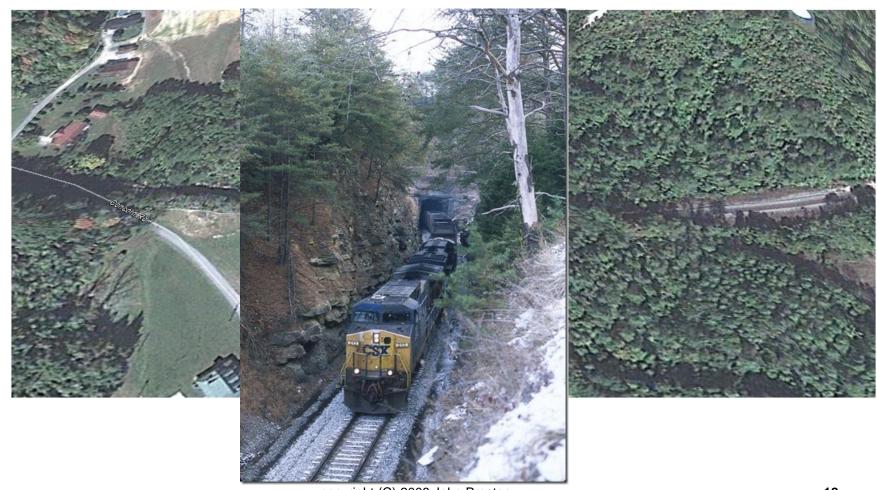


"When the hill was covered with sleet, the railroad was too. We could get off the ice-covered ties and walk on the path, but we had to cross the ...Big Sandy River on the railroad bridge."



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"Another obstacle was the tunnel through which the railroad ran. The hazard there was the same as on the bridge, fast trains....we were always apprehensive about this part of our trip."



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"Sometimes the temperature would drop to ten or fifteen below zero. ...(when we got to school) we would stretch out on the radiators to warm up before class time. For the next two years, Virgil and I were close companions five days a week for forty weeks each year. During that time neither of us was late or absent a single day because of the weather. ..."



The American Dream

- Finished High School and first two years of college at Alice Lloyd College
- Grocery Store in River, KY
- BA in Education, U of K
- Studied law by correspondence, KY law changed preventing completion
- Bomber plant in Ypsilanti, WWII
- Ran a grocery store in Ypsilanti on Grove Road
- Returned to teaching in Mi. in 1968



Mitchell John Preston 1907-2005

When he moved to Michigan and had a son, he bought a house across the street from a school. His son never had to walk more than fifty yards to a school or bus stop.



The American Dream, Part II

- Son of a store owner and teacher
- BS from UM in Physics
- MS from EMU Physics Ed.
- □ Taught HS Physics 1969-81
- □ President of EnTech '81-'83



John Michael Preston

- Doctoral studies at Wayne State, did not write ¹⁹⁴⁷dissertation
- Author or co-author of more than sixty books used in hundreds of schools by more than a half-million students; 199,660 hits on Google (as of 12/11/12)
- □ Professor at EMU from 1983-2012 (bell)
- □ Good luck and best wishes to all of you as you pursue your dreams and ambitions ☺