

What's This All About?

For one to publish his life story seems to be a presumptuous display of conceit. It ignores Solomon's advice to "*Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*" I have not intended to make this a "Hey, look at me," as though I were a person of interest.

In dismay at having so little information about my grandparents and those before them, I determined to record some family history for my descendants. Sending out an email essay each week as I do, however, required all the mental energy and concentration that I have at the age of 87. So I decided to intersperse segments of biography with those articles. The unexpected response of readers has been exciting. Readers have urged that I publish them in book form. But they did not all promise to buy the books!

My youthful aims were not to strive for excellence but maybe to reach mediocrity, and a few times I have come excitingly close to attaining it.

The material is necessarily self-centered, but as I wrote I began to realize a value beyond advertising myself.

In our world of differences and conflicts, I began to see a greater underlying commonality. In spite of all the things that would tend to make us individualistic due to race, age, sex, culture, religion, intelligence, education, and many other factors, we can feel with each other. Due to our human bond, we can share the experiences of happiness, excitement, hope, defeat, disappointment, sorrow, pain – all the grinding stones of life that helped make us who and what we are.

We can ponder together the roles of time, chance, and Providence in supplying both the grit in our gizzards and the menu to be digested.

So I began to see more purpose than just preserving information for my kin. I am still amazed that you would read my stuff.

Maybe you will be moved to write a few pages to leave for your posterity – now, not *sometime*.

No money donated for my working fund is being used in publishing this book.

Since I have done all the proof-reading, blame me for all the stupid things that have slipped through.

At my invitation, my youngest sister, Lois Yeary, has offered some good suggestions.

I have done the general formatting but for the technical work of making camera-ready copy, I have depended upon the technical skills and willing heart of my daughter, Mira Prince, with whose loving family I am blessed to reside.

The cover design is by the oldest of my four grandsons, Daniel Hook, of Tulsa, who is a super graphics artist. Just look at the cover and see for yourself!

If I have given you a few chuckles, caused you to appreciate the grit in your gizzard, or given you some better insight about yourself and others, maybe that will help me justify my audacity.

Cecil Hook; July 1, 2006

Front Page Blurb

Walk bare-foot with this teenager down the rows of cotton during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl days and on through the

century of unbelievable change. Laugh with him and ponder the grit stones that have worked to make us who and what we are.

Grit In My Gizzard

Cecil Hook

Although this is biographical, it is much more than about one man who describes himself as a mediocre preacher. It depicts the life of millions who survived the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years.

If you think you are too poor to go to college, read this man's story shared with subtle wit, humor, and feeling.

Do you struggle with faith and religious people? Walk along with him as a career minister in his conservative Church of Christ as he expands his beliefs and tries to bring change.

From buggy to space ship, take this imaginary ride with him through the unbelievable changes of the rest of the century.

Review with him the values of family, challenges, hard work, faith, determination, and aspiration.

Be reminded as to how much we all have in common – the same grit in our gizzards.

We can ponder together the roles of time, chance, and Providence in supplying both the grit in our gizzards and the menu to be digested.

There are serious thoughts but the writer does not take himself too seriously. He lets us see that we can face

the undesirable circumstances of life with assurance – and humor.