

Having a Great Time, Wish You Were Here

It's 2006 and a lot has happened to me and the world you knew when you left in '73.

I've been a painting contractor for twenty-five years.

Back then, a new dad. Now, a grandfather.

I know you always liked technology, inventions and construction.

You would have liked Cell Phones, GPS, E-mail, HDTV, TiVo,

PAINTER.
GRANDFATHER.
DREAMER.
AUTOBIOGRAPHER.*

Digicams, Plasma Screens, DVDs, Surround Sound, the Internet, cordless tools and drywall screws. Everything has a clock and a remote control. You have no idea what you're missing.

On the down side, they've tampered with the simple perfection of the potato chip, made beer "lite" and burgers "turkey." All signs of the apocalypse.

They actually, finally, built the Blue Route, a stadium called Waterfront Park stands where you once worked and sleepy Newtown has a bypass. The World Trade Center they were building then is gone now, I'll explain later.

I like more types of music now than when I just liked what annoyed you.

On my porch is a bench that once occupied the Reading Terminal waiting room. Maybe we sat on it back in the '50s, switching trains on our way to Royersford before we finally bought that '63 Rambler.

Did I mention EVERYTHING has a remote control?

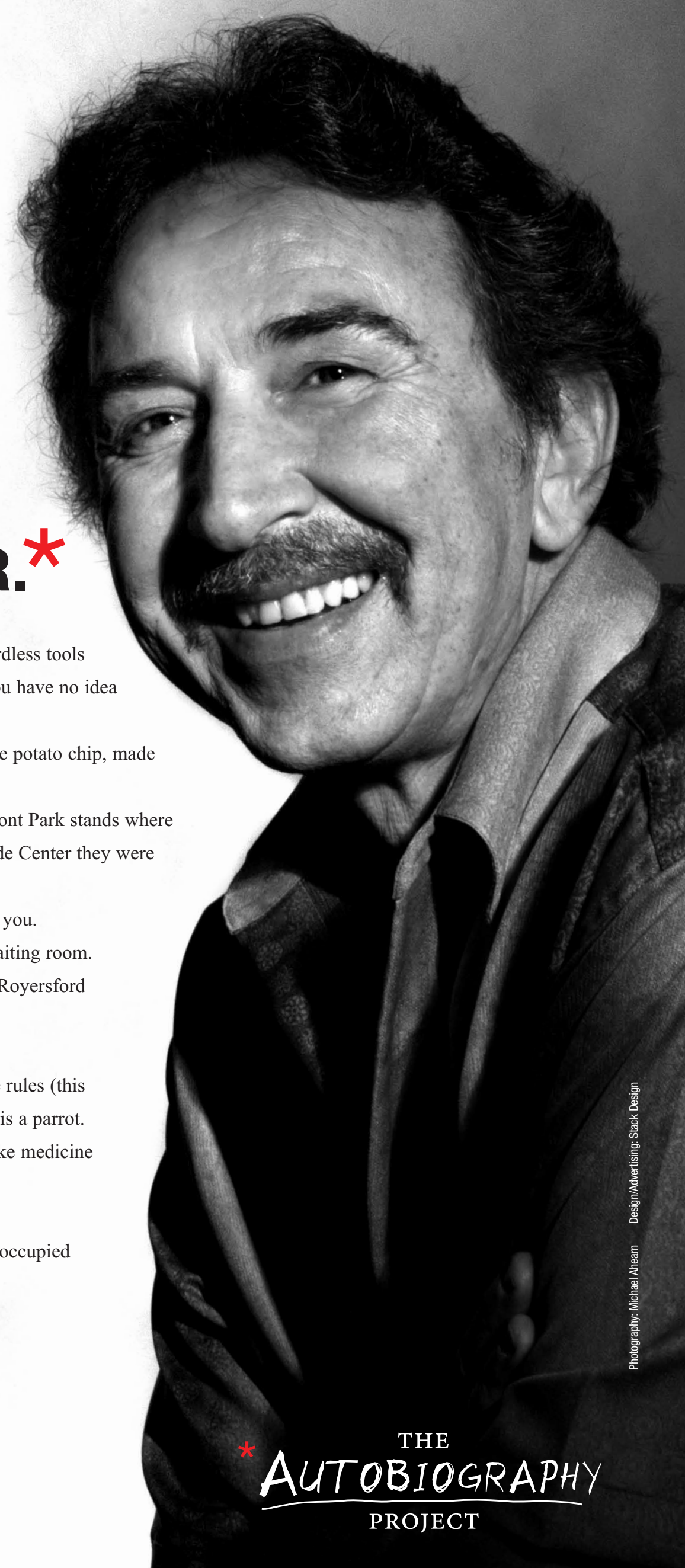
I still drive fast. Eat fast. Grind my teeth. Work with my hands. Hate rules (this piece is 301 words) and put too much cheese on everything. My pet is a parrot. Apparently, high cholesterol in the blood causes heart attacks so I take medicine to lower it rather than quit eating cheesesteaks.

Cars don't rust and usually start but gas is \$3.

And that birdhouse you made in 1961 hangs from my apple tree. Unoccupied for forty-five years, it finally has a tenant. Moved in May 1st...

Happy Birthday Dad.

– Dennis Capoferri



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**THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
PROJECT**

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The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is the most widely published autobiography of all time. In honor of Franklin's 300th birthday, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia* invited today's Philadelphians to submit memoirs of their own, using no more than 300 words. At the end of the project – May 17, 2006 – a panel of judges selected twenty autobiographies to appear on bus shelters throughout the city. Visit www.theautobiographyproject.com for more information about the project, and to read more Philadelphia stories.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary is a non-profit organization established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth. *One Book, One Philadelphia* is a project of the Mayor's Office and the Free Library of Philadelphia.



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