

# SUCCESS WITHOUT COLLEGE

The Pandemic Has Changed Everything

**“The biggest adventure you can ever take  
is to live the life of your dreams.”**

— Oprah Winfrey

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**NOTE:** When I say, “The United States,” or “Americans,”  
I refer to both the United States *and* Canada.



# AN UNJUSTIFIABLE WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY

**"If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you. Not much."**

**--Jim Rohn**

The following quote is from "Skip College," a book that I published back in 2013:

"For most of today's high school graduates, going on to college is an unjustifiable waste of time and money. Even more serious are the consequences that come from homesickness, relationship breakups, student loans, unaffordable housing, credit card debt, the feelings of social inadequacy, the pressure to get good grades, and (for women) the fear of sexual assault. An increasing number of young men and women who end up with severe emotional problems seek relief in all the wrong places—binge drinking, drugs, sex, or suicide."

In addition to the problems listed above, the cost of getting a college education has steadily increased since 2013, as have the student loans. Today, the average student graduates and faces a debt of some \$30,000!!

When I graduated from high school in 1946, many students were expected to go to college and work their way through. Such was my own case. I chose forest management as my major and entered the University of Minnesota—St. Paul Campus in the fall of 1946. To pay my expenses, I

worked from five to eight hours a day, parking cars at the Radisson Ramp in downtown Minneapolis. Three years later, I finally realized that I did not want to spend the rest of my life as a forest ranger, so I dropped out.

*Three years wasted!* But at least I had no debt. Now let's look at the current situation—the absence of security, the fear that the tables could turn at any moment for no reason at all. Many of you young men and women are worried and unsure of what's in store for us in the future.

We cannot trust Social Security to provide retirement. We cannot trust the Federal Reserve to improve the economy. We cannot trust the media to tell the truth. We can no longer assume that once we have a diploma in hand, we will always have a job.

***The pandemic has changed everything.***

More persons now work from home than at any time in human history. If you can work for yourself, think of the advantages. No more long commutes! No more dressing up if needed on your job. In fact, if you work for yourself as I do, then you can take a break for a day, a week, or whatever. If you live in a motorhome, you can head north in the winter and south in the summer. Even better, you can travel the world or settle down in some foreign land. This will be the subject of chapters 5 and 6.

Meanwhile, note that the cover of this book has the first word in large red letters: **SUCCESS**. There is a reason for this. Do not skip the next chapter!

## Chapter 2.

# THE AUTHOR'S DEFINITION OF "SUCCESS"

**"Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the thing you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you."  
--Maya Angelou**

*The New York Times* obituary of October 29, 1993, had this headline: "DORIS DUKE, 80, HEIRESS WHOSE GREAT WEALTH COULDN'T BUY HAPPINESS, IS DEAD." The article said that late one evening in Rome in 1945, Miss Duke, who was then 33 years old, told a friend that her vast fortune was in some ways a barrier to happiness. "All that money is a problem sometimes," she said. "After I've gone out with a man a few times, he starts to tell me how much he loves me. But how can I know if he really means it? How can I ever be sure?" The *Times* noted: "Her words that night showed that her life had been profoundly affected, even scarred, by her wealth."

Listen also to John Paul Getty, once reputed to be the richest man in America. Two years before his death, a reporter asked him if money had brought him happiness.

"Money," he said, "doesn't necessarily have any connection with happiness. Maybe with unhappiness."

Actress Jane Fonda was once quoted as saying, "I've had my taste of wealth and all the material things. They don't mean a thing. There's a

psychiatrist that goes with every swimming pool out here, not to mention divorces and children who hate their parents.”

“The show and splendor of great houses, elaborate furnishings, stately halls, oppresses me,” wrote American essayist and naturalist John Burroughs a century ago. “They fix the attention on false values, they set up a false standard of beauty; they stand between me and the real feeders of character and thought.”

“Straightforwardness and simplicity,” wrote a Roman playwright, “are in keeping with goodness. The things that are essential are acquired with little bother; it is the luxuries that call for toil and effort.” The author is Seneca, born in Spain 2,000 years ago.

China’s Lao-Tzu, born nearly six centuries earlier than Seneca, had this to say: “To know you have enough is to be rich.”

This next quotation is my favorite. It is by actor Jim Carrey, who is both rich and famous:

*“I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.”*

However, if being rich and famous will not make you happy, what will? It’s a crazy world out there. It will never return to normal—my prediction is that more changes are yet ahead of us. Nevertheless, I do not see doom and gloom for you who can work for yourselves. Instead, I see opportunity.

Naturally, you will need a certain amount of money to live well. In addition, you will want to set aside some cash for a future rainy day.

Beyond that, however, there is no need to keep earning more and more. There is no limit to such a goal, nor will it make you happy.

Although I have never had an urge to get rich, I was headed in that direction several times. Nevertheless, I had sufficient money at the time, so I sold each business. That gave me time for more important things. Also, I have never purchased any home larger than my wife could care for by herself. (Full disclosure: I do admit to buying Mercedes, Packards, and Jaguars, but I always purchased a used one from a private party for cash.)

In the following chapter, you will learn that living in a small town has many advantages over living in a big city. However, if you already live in a small town, or if you are a city dweller who will remain in his city for whatever reason, skip the following chapter.

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