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**Biographical Information
and Background Notes**

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**Regarding:
Bruce Allen Powe**

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1.7B2 Biographical Sketch

Bruce Allen Powe (b. Edmonton, Alberta, 1925) is a novelist, author of various works of non-fiction, essays, criticism; a political organizer and activist for the Liberal Party in Ontario; federal civil servant and assistant to a cabinet minister; a careerist in public relations and public affairs with various business organizations. As a Canadian army veteran, he attended the University of Alberta and graduated with his BA (1949) and MA in economics (1951). In 1949 he married Alys Brady of Edmonton. In 1951 he was selected for the administrative office training program in the federal government in Ottawa, from which he was seconded to the staff of Hon. George Prudham, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, the "minister from Alberta". In 1957 he joined the public relations department of Imperial Oil in Toronto. From 1960-63 he was Executive Director of the Ontario Liberal Association, responsible for both federal and provincial affairs. After a stint in advertising agencies, he became the Director of Public Relations for the Canadian Life (later Health) Insurance Association in Toronto IN 1966, the trade group for over a hundred life and health insurance companies in Canada. He spent the rest of his business career there until retirement in 1990 when he was Vice President, Public Affairs, responsible for government relations. During those years he developed his writing as a novelist in his spare time: a "Sunday writer", and published five books. Since 1990 he has operated Powe Communications, a sole proprietorship, engaged in consulting and writing projects for various clients. He continues to write novels.

1.7B2a Names:

He wrote the first edition of the novel *Killing Ground* under the pseudonym "Ellis Portal". Later editions and books appeared under his own name.

Family: He was the only adopted child of ^{1 bur}William W. and Lillian Powe of Edmonton (birth parents not known). Father died in 1960, mother in 1972. The Powe family were early settlers in Saskatoon (1884); a street in Sutherland, a suburb, is named after them.

Marriage: In 1949 he married Alys Maude Brady of Edmonton. Born in 1927, she graduated from the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, with her teaching certificate and taught at Jasper Place and King Edward Park schools. She is a talented musician with her ATCL degree in piano. On moving to Ottawa, she became one of the first married women to be hired by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. But, typically of those days, she gave up her career to raise the two children, while continuing active in volunteer and political work. Her father G.K. Brady, born in Ireland, was a school teacher and principal in Edmonton, and died in 1976. Her mother, Kathleen Romanak, was the daughter of Slovak immigrants. She died in 1994. Alys has one sister in Edmonton, Sheila Schlesinger, married to Ernie Schlesinger, brother of Joe Schlesinger, the CBC TV correspondent.

Children: - Bruce William Powe, born Ottawa, 1955, teacher and writer (see Archives). He is married to Robin Mackenzie and they have twins, a son and daughter, born in 1992.

- Sheila Kathleen Powe, born Toronto, 1959, married Paul Earley, an Australian, in 1988 in Italy where they taught English. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, she is currently Area Coordinator, North York Chapter, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Their first child is due in December, 1995.

1.7B2b Places of residence

From 1925 to 1949, except for Army service, he lived with his parents in the same house at 9806-89th Avenue in south Edmonton. Bruce and Alys Powe lived in Ottawa from 1951 to 1957, then moved to Toronto to Meadowbrook Ave. In 1964 they bought a house on 158 Ridley Blvd., Toronto, where they have remained to date.

1.7B2c Education

His schooling at King Edward and Strathcona High in south Edmonton was interrupted by military service, 1943-45. Not having completed Grade XII, he took intensive pre-matriculation classes designed for veterans, and entered the University of Alberta in 1946 in Arts (economics), BA, 1949. The Department of Veterans Affairs agreed to extend his service "credits" for graduate work in economics. He completed his MA thesis in 1951 on the topic: "The Social Credit Interim Program and the Alberta Treasury Branches".

His thesis adviser was Dr. Eric Hanson, professor of economics. He was awarded his MA in 1951.

1.7B2d Occupation, life and activities

This section, using first person, focusses on two central themes of the author's archival material: as a writer and political activist. Details are in the files.

The Writer:

Early Years: While always "scribbling", I did not develop into a published book author until age 41. Throughout my works there is a current of humour and satire that first surfaced at the U. of A. as editor and columnist ("Out on a Limb by Sprucebough") in the student newspaper, The Gateway. I gained invaluable journalistic experience, mainly as a crime reporter, as a summer replacement on the daily newspaper, The Edmonton Bulletin.

Published works of fiction:

* **Expresso 67:** 1966, Peter Martin Associates, Toronto.

While in publicity and advertising, I couldn't resist satirizing the 1967 Centennial and Expo 67, projects on which I had worked. This little book created a counter-Expo on a ramshackle island off Baie Murphy (Baie D'Urfe) with fake exhibits and events. It was well received in the good spirit of those times.

"A Canadian humorist of first rank"-- Quebec Chronicle Telegraph.

"The most sensible centennial publication"-- Globe and Mail.

* **Killing Ground: The Canadian Civil War:** 1968, 1974, PMA Books, Toronto; 1977, PaperJacks, Toronto.

The darker side of the post-centennial euphoria. After the first FLQ outbreaks there was a lot of "what if?" talk. I decided to project a worst case scenario into a novel. Was assisted by a National Defence information officer on the "war games"--Col. James McPhee, since deceased-- and by a friend Major Reg Doran, since deceased, who gave me the military scenario for the attack on the Quebec Citadel.

The title was taken from C.P. Stacey's *The Canadian Army, 1939-1945* where he referred to a "killing ground" the Germans had set up in Ortona, Italy-- a fire-swept piazza. Major Doran, back from peacekeeping in Laos, gave me episodes from the Viet Nam war, e.g., the dropping of a prisoner from a helicopter and other atrocities.

Because of its sensitive nature, and having just started work at CLIA, the book's first edition had the pseudonym "Ellis Portal". The name comes from the little white sign on the tunnel leading southbound into Bloor station on the Toronto Yonge street subway line, and apparently refers to the portal to Ellis street.

In any case, the book received mixed reaction from the critics, its violence deplored. There were strange phone calls, including accusations of being in the pay of the authorities. "I know who FLA is," one caller said darkly, referring to the dedication page to "FLA". I laughed. "FLA" is to the "Fair Lady Alys", my wife.

After Peter Martin issued a publisher's paperback in 1974, PaperJacks books (Simon and Schuster) picked up the mass paperback rights; it was published with an intro, in 1977. It stayed in publication until 1983. During the 1970 FLQ kidnappings, the Canadian Embassy in Washington unofficially provided copies as background for US journalists.

Three times the book was taken up as a film option, but was never produced, mainly because of cost and political sensitivity (the Canadian Film Development Corporation wouldn't touch it). One script, not extant, was written by Timothy Findlay. Ken Hughes, the British director ("Cromwell"), also tried to write a script. It was awful. The trouble with the treatments was they persisted in portraying the protagonist, Col. Hlynka, as a frothing psychopath--which, of course, I had never intended him to be. One film outfit, frustrated by the lack of cooperation from Canadian authorities (National Defence wouldn't let them rent army units), pondered shooting the whole thing in Yugoslavia!

"A dangerous book"-- Globe and Mail.

"Exciting, shocking, chilling"-- Canadian Press.

Interval: After this, I tried to develop a series of who-dunnits based on a Mountie character. Never went anywhere.

*** The Last Days of the American Empire:** 1974, St. Martin's Press, New York; Macdonald and Jane's, London, UK; Macmillan of Canada, Toronto.

More "what if?" fantasizing about the future. One time when I ran into Mr. Pearson, former prime minister, he said: "Bruce, I hope you aren't going to do any more books like *Killing Ground*." And a lot of people urged me to go back to something with humanity and humour. So, after much thought, I decided to do the next book as a satire. There would have to be violence in it, yes, but in a different context.

Thus emerged this book, which portrays an invasion of North America in the 21st century by the starving hordes of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. (Refer to the author's

annotated edition in the archives). In this story the protagonists are a failed poet from Ghana who is drawn into the invasion, and a "perfessor" at a college on the Hudson in New York. It's all done with puns, allusions and sections written in the style of various authors, to symbolize the decline of culture. While the style and tone reflect attitudes of the late 60s and 70s, it does remain eerily contemporary. Shortly thereafter, a more serious book *Camp of the Souls* appeared in France. Against the background of today's social climate it is undergoing a revival. But it is serious.

From the outset, I envisaged a US publisher doing this book. A casual conversation with Blake Newton, then president of the American Council of Life insurance in New York, led him to call a friend at Doubleday, who in turn passed me on to Sally Barnes, the rights editor, at St. Martin's Press in the "Flatiron" building in New York. I found myself outlining the story to Thomas L. Dunne, a senior editor. In no time, he had accepted it.

Subsequently published in Britain and Canada, the book died despite good reviews. Promotion was abysmal. It never went into paperback because (so I was told) the fiction editors said it was sci-fi and the sci-fi editors said it wasn't. Too bad; it's my favourite book.

In the meantime, I expanded the theme into an American Empire trilogy and wrote *See No Beevil* and *Dead Falls*, which were never published {see files}. Actually, Tom Dunne had agreed to take "Beevils" if I could find a Canadian publisher. But Macmillan of Canada and others turned it down, and St. Martin's decided if there wasn't Canadian support for the book they wouldn't proceed.

"Savage wit and compassion."-- The Sunday Times, London, England.

"The world ends less with a bang than with a shaggy dog story."-- New York Times Book Review.

* **The Aberhart Summer:** 1983, Lester and Orpen Dennys, Toronto; 1984, Penguin Canada (paper), Toronto.

Back to reality. Long fascinated by the mixture of religion and politics in Alberta, I considered doing a biography of William Aberhart, the radio evangelist and Social Credit premier of Alberta from 1935 to 1941. He was succeeded by Ernest Manning, father of Preston Manning of the Reform Party. There is a thread, here.

I had researched the period for my MA thesis, and had been involved in Alberta politics while on the staff of Goerge Prudham, the federal Liberal minister who was the MP for Edmonton West. But on reflection I felt that a novel would be the best framework to bring out the characters and times. I settled on a fictionalized milieu based on my old neighborhood in south Edmonton: east of 99th street on an 89th avenue axis, down to Mill Creek.

To reconstruct the events, published books (McPherson, Irving, Mann) were supplemented by newspaper microfiche. I spent hours at the public library at Bathurst and Lawrence using its scanner on the microfilms. Then I decided to confine the story to six weeks in the summer of 1935 leading up to the election of Social Credit. The book was actually built around a detailed diary of each day in July and August, 1935, from the microfiche, but that diary is not deposited in the archives, yet. I still use it when I give lectures on the subject.

The plot revolves around the mysterious hanging death of a popular teenaged boy as narrated by one of his pals, one Doug Sayers. While the characters were composites, most of the campaign events actually occurred, including a quasi-Nazi rally. The theme originated from memories of the death of a friend, Hugh Wynn, who had drowned in Mill Creek. (Small world department: when in Sorrento, Italy in May, 1995, we met Gary Wynn from Edmonton, a nephew of Hugh.)

But who would take it? Completed in 1982, my typist Kate Hamilton (before I had a computer) suggested sending it to Lester Orpen and Dennys. They kept it for a year before making a decision. In the meantime, I sent it to other publishers who turned it down. At last, Louise Dennys took the matter in hand, did a superb (some 20 pages) analysis, following which I rewrote it into a shorter version which appeared in 1983 to generally favourable reviews. Penguin Canada bought the paperback rights in 1984. It remained in print until 1992. After the demise of L&OD, Key Porter took over the rights, subsequently returned to author in 1992.

On the stage: In 1991 Stephen Heatley, artistic director at the Theatre Network (Live at the Roxy) on 124th street in Edmonton, sought permission to develop a stage production. His enthusiasm pushed the project along through two workshops which I attended and worked closely with the playwright, Conni Massing. However, financial difficulties arose. Heatley resigned and went to the Citadel theatre. The production never went ahead. (The full story is in the files).

However, in 1994 Ben Henderson, new artistic director at TN, was determined to produce a cut-down version of Conni Massing's adaptation. It happened that he was also artistic director of the Great West Summer Theatre at the Empress Theatre in Fort Macleod, Alberta, south of Calgary. By using summer students on federal summer employment grants, he put together an excellent production that ran from July to September, 1994 to capacity audiences and good reviews.

Alys and I, with her sister and brother-in-law from Edmonton visited the theatre and cast in late June, 1994, but were unable to stay for the actual production. At the same time a Calgary film company, Bradshaw McLeod (North of 60, Lonesome Dove) met with us to discuss movie rights, but to date they have not made a formal offer.

"Best Canadian novel of the year." --Winnipeg Free Press.

"A concise, lyric gem."--Montreal Gazette.

The stage play, 1994:

"The result is a serious work, presented with humor and dispatch...For today's political observers, some of the parallels are chillingly close."-- Lethbridge Herald.

"Before long those watching are trapped in the theatrical web that is so masterfully woven on stage by the actors."-- The Fort Macleod Gazette.

*** The Ice Eaters:** 1987, Lester and Orpen Dennys, Toronto.

Another high wire act. After visits in 1978 and 1980, I had been contemplating a story about the Yukon, and first drew up an outline for a family saga from the 1896 Klondike gold rush through to today. But who could upstage Pierre Berton? At the same time, I was pondering a corporate novel set against the recession of 1981-82, which I envisaged as a cautionary tale, a look at how the recession struck a group of Toronto characters, mostly in the PR business--drawing on what one knows. The upshot was to combine the two themes into one book, a kind of "two solitudes" of the city and the North against the backdrop of the recession. Or: the myths of the realities (the city) vs. the realities of the myths (the North).

To research the Yukon I pored over published sources (including Berton), then travelled to Whitehorse in 1984 to stay at the house of Judge H.C.B. Maddison (Hank) and his wife Jeannie--old Edmonton friends. They were away at the time but had set up many contacts (see 1984 diary).

It took awhile to get the intricate theme right. I started with what turned out to be the last section of the book, *Dreaming True*, which was first published as a story, *A Yukon Tale*, in *The Idler* magazine. In the first version it became the opening sequence, but later, at Alys's suggestion, moved it to finish up the book in an aura of myth.

By this time (1986), I had acquired a literary agent, Beverley Slopen, who carried out the negotiations. Lester Orpen and Dennys (Malcolm Lester) liked the manuscript. Janet Hamilton (Howard Engel's spouse) did the first edit, and Beverly Beetham-Endersby did the copy edit.

When it appeared in 1987, the reviews were mixed, the negatives mainly on the grounds that the juxtaposition of the two themes was attempting too much. Yet, there were fans, and I did a well-attended reading at Harbourfront. But sales were not good, and it never went into paperback. Few people could see that the cycle of recession would be repeated in 1990, only worse. On the closing of L&OD, Key Porter took over the rights, which they still hold.

"Best Canadian novel of 1987"--Edmonton Journal.

"Thoroughly absorbing. The mythical dimensions are embodied in strong believable characters. The startling denouement convinces absolutely."--Toronto Star.

"There isn't a false note in this splendid book."--Ottawa Citizen.

Interval: Completed in 1990, *Crimes of the Middle Class* was a novel about a small high-tech firm under takeover siege. It didn't get published.

Current Work: In 1995 I completed another political novel (working title: *The Split Vote*) about a fictitious Ontario rural community and what happens to its local MP when he starts getting hate mail. It draws on my experience as a political organizer. My agent, Beverley Slopen, has it out there in a difficult market: response unknown at the time of writing.

A Note on the Unpublished Manuscripts: It's with a great deal of trepidation that an author donates early writing efforts, failures and the like. Please handle with care and sensitivity. I could have burnt them. Perhaps some day our grandchildren may want to look through this stuff. But they do provide some continuity to trace the uneven (and slow) development of a writer, and maybe will provide hope and encouragement to others who are struggling to master the craft.

"Commercial" Writing: The files contain samples of writing done for money (unlike novels), including various articles and brochures. All they do is show that a writer writes, no matter what.

The Political Activist

*** Political aide to federal cabinet minister (1952-1957)--**

In Edmonton during the 1949 federal election, Dick Sherbaniuk (from The Gateway) and I wrote and edited a Liberal paper, "The Spotlight". We got to know George Prudham, a building supply dealer on 104th street, who ran as a Liberal in Edmonton West, defeating (to everyone's astonishment) a prominent businessman, Ray Milner.

Later when he became a minor cabinet minister, Mines and Technical Surveys, in the St. Laurent government, Prudham looked around for someone who had knowledge of Social Credit, its MPs having taken most seats in Alberta. Apparently someone who knew about my research and MA thesis suggested me. Prudham came to our apartment in Eastview

(Vanier) to discuss the job. At the time I was a "Junior Administrative Assistant", having been selected for the federal government's administrative officer training program in 1951. I kept my civil service status and was seconded to Prudham's staff as "Associate Private Secretary". Our department office was in the Copeland building at Albert and Kent. Don W. Thomson, later to be Honorary Chair of the Canadian Authors' Association and author of several non-fiction books (*Men and Meridians*), was the private secretary.

My work was almost entirely political with the federal Liberals in Alberta and our organizer, John Haar, since deceased, who later became principal of Centennial Community College, Scarborough and Grant McEwan College in Edmonton. Using my research, I wrote a campaign manual for Alberta Liberal candidates, then in 1957 a pamphlet for the National Liberal Federation that quoted some of the more rabid sayings of Social Crediters.

But Prudham got into the glue. On the advice of his officials, mainly Dr. George Hume, Director General of Scientific Services, he opposed the Trans Canada Pipeline subsidy proposal dreamt up by C.D. Howe. Others, including Interprovincial Pipelines, trooped into his office claiming they could build the gas pipeline without government assistance. Needless to say, Prudham's views were not welcomed in cabinet.

In the meantime, Jack Pickersgill and others wanted to groom William Hawryluk, the popular mayor of Edmonton, as the minister from Alberta. He was to run in Edmonton East. Under these pressures, Prudham angrily decided not to run again. Apparently offered a senatorship, he is supposed to have turned it down--but I can't verify that. The sop was to be Special Envoy to Ghana on its independence in March, 1957 (see files).

Earlier, during a ministerial trip to the Iron Ore Co. in Schefferville, Quebec (late of Brian Mulroney fame), Prudham was told of a missing plane and that the RCAF had abandoned the search. Prudham got on the phone to Campney, the DND minister, who agreed to resume the search, following which the downed flyers were found alive. It was his finest hour.

On election night 1957, when Liberals went down like ninepins, Prudham chortled at his prophesy of the disaster that would follow if the government persisted in using closure on the Trans Canada Pipeline bill. I recall how his colleagues applauded when he did defend the government during the pipeline debate (see Hansard on file). They knew it wasn't what he really thought.

Before the 1957 election I had arranged to return to the civil service as a finance officer with Treasury Board, but instead was recruited by Imperial Oil in Toronto.

*** Executive Director, Ontario Liberal Association
(1960-1963)--**

Restless and bored in the PR department at Imperial Oil, I was an easy mark for something new. It came during a long evening in 1960 at the home of Richard Lovekin (later a judge) outside of Newcastle, ON, a Loyalist tract near the intersection of Hwys. 115 and 401. Vern Singer, MPP and others were there. Lovekin was an old friend from Alberta. Of course, I waxed eloquently about the dismal state of the Liberal party.

Next, I recall a luncheon at the Ontario Club with members of a Liberal reform group called "Cell 13", plus General Bruce Matthews (Excelsior Life), a fundraiser. It appeared that James Scott, the current Ontario organizer, was to go to Ottawa to the National Liberal Federation. They were looking for someone for the Ontario job.

It was a formidable prospect: no staff, no money, and responsibility for both federal and provincial affairs--the latter a touchy point with "Cell 13". They were not fans of the Ontario provincial leader, John Wintermeyer, and were devoted to Lester Pearson.

In the meantime, the group had captured the main offices of the Ontario Liberal Association with Royce Frith (later Senator and High Commissioner to the UK) as president and Dan Lang (later Senator) as treasurer. Keith Davey (later Senator) at the time was a radio time salesman for CKHF and president of the Toronto and Yorks Liberals. Others included: David Anderson, lawyer, Gordon Dryden, lawyer, David Greenspan, Dick Stanbury (later Senator), Paul Hellyer, Andy Thompson (later Senator), Dr. Boyd Upper, who was EA to Wintermeyer, and others. This was the group I was to work with over three arduous years. For the most part, they were a delightful upbeat bunch who remain close friends to this day. Come to think of it, a lot of them did end up in the Senate.

In August, 1960 my adoptive father died in Edmonton, following which I took on the Ontario job. My diaries and other papers on file, which can be made available under my restrictions, describe what it was like. The hours were impossibly long, and after the Liberal minority victory in 1963 I resigned, vowing never again to sacrifice my family for political office, elected or otherwise.

During the 1962 and 1963 federal campaigns in Ontario, my main task was to organize Mr. Pearson's tours. Also John Wintermeyer's tours for his ill-fated campaign later in 1963. In 1965, on loan from Collyer Advertising, I organized Pearson's Ontario tours. Through close contacts with Mr. Pearson, I too became a disciple, but also had reservations about him as a politician, as expressed in the diaries.

The diaries: Unfortunately, time pressures meant that no diaries were kept of those tours. It's important to appreciate that the entries that exist in the diaries were

written in haste during the heat of battle. Some snap judgments of people were clearly wrong--others were right on. But, as many of the "actors" are still living (1995), I felt I had to place restrictions on the use of any material that could lead to legal action or in any way injure parties still living. Other entries, though, may be used with permission.

Later, as a volunteer, I was a staunch supporter of Bob Nixon for the Ontario leadership in the 1970s, and was active in other capacities.

In recent years I have volunteered mainly at the local level. In 1987-90 with the York Mills provincial Liberals for Brad Nixon (no relation to Bob) elected as MPP and defeated in 1990. In 1993 I worked for John Godfrey, elected as MP for Don Valley West. In 1994 I was a member of the Ontario Liberal Party policy committee and the newsletter subcommittee. And, in 1995 worked for the York Mills Liberal candidate, David MacNaughton, who was defeated.

1.7B2e Other significant information

Military service:

Undistinguished. Enlisted as a private, a rank I continued to hold, in the Canadian Army, 1943-45 (in at 18, out at 20). Poor eyesight relegated me to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps as a driver, then a clerk. Went overseas from the A-20 base at Red Deer, AB in November, 1944, non-stop through New York and onto the *Ile de France*.

As I was not considered fit for active service in Europe, I languished in Britain in various driving and clerical jobs. Was posted to CMHQ in London in Transport Control, and ended up in 1945 (of all things) organizing the transport of war brides to Canada.

Lived out "on subsistence" in a dank basement near Notting Hill Gate and did share with other Londoners the rain of V-1 and V-2 missiles. Fortunately, I was never injured, but did see much damage and carnage.

In 1945 (just when the war was about over), the Army in its wisdom changed its category system. Now those who could see with the aid of glasses were eligible for active service. Upon which I signed up for the units about to go to the Pacific. In August, 1945, even though the bomb had dropped, we were sent home and discharged. Thus was I able to escape Occupation duty in Germany, and get a head start on my education.

In 1947 I joined the Canadian Officers' Training Corps at the University of Alberta and later was in the Loyal Edmonton Regt., a militia unit, as a lieutenant. The pressures of work in Ottawa after 1951 prompted me to withdraw from any further military activities. One day two

large Military Police types showed up at our apartment to reclaim my uniforms, which I had neglected to turn in.

On May 8, 1995, Alys and I attended the veterans' celebrations in Hyde Park in London.

Other employment history:

Interspersed with writing and politics, one had to make a living as briefly listed below.

Imperial Oil Limited, 1957-1960:

In the PR dept. at Toronto head office, at 111 St. Clair Ave. W. With an overstaffed (or overstuffed) department, there wasn't much to do. I was on loan most of the time, first to the University of Toronto fund-raising drive, then to the Canadian Conference on Education. (See the cross-reference on file in Robert Collins's book).

Advertising agencies, 1963-1966:

With the help of Keith Davey and John deB. Payne (Montreal), I entered a short and wild career with Collyer Advertising's Toronto office, then Baker-Lovick when it bought out the agency. The continual chaos led me to seek stability.

Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, 1966-1990:

Stability appeared in the form of John A. (Jack) Tuck, managing director of the then CLIA, who I had known through University of Alberta alumni activities in Toronto. Took a salary cut from \$15,000 to \$13,500 to become the Association's first Director of Public Relations.

As might be expected, the Association was a highly conservative lobby group for life and health insurance companies. But it did provide a steady income, some fun (invention of "The Useless Gathering Society") and many fine colleagues on staff and in the member companies, including Jack Tuck and his successors: Gerry Devlin, Al Morson and Mark Daniels.

Trade association work is demanding in its own way: achieving consensus in committees, trying to impart some perspective, heavy schedules of travel and meetings. But it also gave me time to pursue the writing of fiction--maybe a kind of therapy.

Finally and belatedly, they put me in charge of government relations. I held the position of Vice President, Public Affairs until retirement in 1990, and continue to do consulting and writing work for the Association, as well as occasional stints on the phone lines talking to consumers who call the Life and Health Insurance Information Centre.
