

Lucky Bob

An Autobiography

This autobiography started when someone asked me what life was like growing up in small town Ithaca. I started to reminisce and discovered I had a fair number of photographs of Ithaca. Eventually they turned into Chapter 1. Finishing that chapter, I discovered I was ready to go on to writing about Michigan State. As I went on writing about RCA and Princeton University and marriage, I realized I had the title of my autobiography.

A good bit of this autobiography was dictated and is in my own words. I have, luckily, had the editorial help of several people. My sister Mary and my daughters Mary and Sheila both reviewed and corrected the English in sections of the text. My wife Anne not only corrected some of the text, but also clarified and corrected some of my errant memories. Eileen Palmer did a yeoman job of editing, formatting and helping arrange the photos and the printing of this document. I am deeply indebted to all of them.

The Cover Drawing is from the patent that I was granted for an invention on work that I was doing at RCA labs in August 1955. This was the invention that precipitated my technical career. In retrospect, it was a very lucky invention, and that is why I titled my autobiography "**Lucky Bob.**" (My invention was an improvement in item 32 in the patent drawing on the cover page). RCA awarded me the Sarnoff Fellowship which paid for my first two years at Princeton Graduate School.