

Alan Golding



What happened after Locking?? Well I was posted to the GRSS at Norton, (Sheffield) and that's where I got myself into trouble - (not my fault of course - just bad company), and that got me out of the Air Force. Back in civilian life I worked for a computer manufacturer, (Ferranti in Manchester) for a while, but discovered that I needed a degree or equivalent to really get ahead. That forced me back to working as a civilian with the Air Force, (Airworks Services working on air traffic control radar systems

- GPS 6 is the only number I remember), because they would set up a schedule that would allow me to work and also attend school. It took 4 years of part time day and night school and during that time I was based in Aldergrove, (Belfast, Northern Ireland), and then the RAF School of Air Warfare in Louth, Lincolnshire as a civilian with senior NCO status. I know, it makes no sense to screw up and get a quasi promotion - but then I've always been lucky as well as stupid.

After graduating I had to find a real job with a future which was not with Airworks Services, and that's when I emigrated to Canada's west coast where my first wife already had a sister who was established. The Canadian government was screaming for electronic engineers and they actually paid my families way out and then supported us until I got my first job. I started out as a with the local telephone company working on microwave transmission systems but after a couple of months I left to join IBM Canada working as a repair technician on their mainframe computer systems. They are a great company and the job was terrific, it was early days for mainframe computers, (they broke a lot), and the group that I



Worked with, (about 30 of them), had a similar camaraderie as the 84th, where everyone needed, and could rely on, everyone else. That lasted about 16 years when I left IBM and joined Hitachi Canada - also in the computer mainframe business but a Canadian start-up company. I moved into sales with them and after another 16 great years I retired in 1995 and moved to Canada's east coast, (St Andrews By The Sea). By then I was already divorced and remarried to Leona who is quite a bit younger than me, (13 years). After a few years of being "really" retired Leona started selling real estate and late last year she started her own company, (see the web at www.leonagolding.com), and I am now working for her, (not for cash but for other considerations that I used to think I got for free), I manage the office, (sit at the front - answer phones - look pretty), maintain the web sites, do the accounting, plus a host of other jobs, the truth is I don't know when I ever worked so hard for so little financial reward - the fringe benefits are OK though. My goal in life is for the new company to get successful enough so that Leona can replace me with a paid worker, probably a couple of years.

From a family perspective, Barbara and I had two girls and adopted one Native American, (part Cree), son, they are all on Canada's west coast. After the divorce, (which was pretty nasty), relationships were strained for quite a while but all is well now and I visit and stay each of the kids every year and even have a tolerable relationship with Barbara. I have a total of 9 grandchildren ranging from under two to twenty six, my eldest grandson, (Grant Goulding - you can Google him), was a member of Canada's Olympic gymnastics team and represented Canada in Athens and Beijing. Leona has one son who lives in St Andrews, and one grandson who has just turned two.

There you have it, a not yet completed life, summarized in three paragraphs.