

Turn of the century and turns in my life.



The turn of the century turned out to be kind of a snooze. Computers did not crash, stock market did not crash and elevators did not crash. No real change from Dec 31st, 1999 to Jan 1, 2000 and life continued as we knew it.

I was working for the Eldorado Hotel & Casino, as a Junior Programmer and enjoying the work and enjoying married life and a nice little house on the north side of Reno, Nevada.

Then in Sept, 11, 2001 life did change. I remember as I got to work that morning we were told to turn on the TV. We were just in time to watch as the second plane hit the other tower. I don't think we got any work done that day, we just watched as it all developed and then amazed when the towers crashed to the ground.

Terry McPherson

Not wanting to diminish the suffering and terrible outcome of that day, I found that since that happened the casino and traveling and gambling business was strongly affected. My bosses had been promising a substantial raise for Oct 2001 and now that things were so bad in the business that was not going to happen. I was not happy. Then in early 2002, I started not feeling so well and hardly able to walk down the hallway. I went to a clinic to see if they could help me and they immediately put me in Ambulance to the ER for a heart condition. Turned out to be a 3rd degree heart block. Not that serious. Just popped a pacemaker in me and sent me home 2 days later and told to go back to work. But I was not happy in my work now. I started looking around town. I found the Peppermill Hotel & Casino was looking for a Programmer and offering an amount much more than I had even been promised but not gotten at the Eldorado Hotel & Casino. So I made the move to the Peppermill and really enjoyed that. They also had a casino on the border of Nevada and Utah and I frequently got to travel over there to work with them in developing / modifying programs they wanted. It was fun.

Even though I liked being a programmer, I was still interested in cars, but not racing. I decided I wanted to open a small car dealership to run in my spare time. I started researching and finding what I needed and the cost. In the meantime, I had been occasionally going to a local public auction and buying cars and

Terry McPherson

selling them. I had found me a nice Eldorado 2 dr that had the fabric roof, making it look like a convertible. But I was interested in finding me a nice convertible. For my job at the Peppermill, I was sent to Atlanta for an IBM course. As it happened, while looking at cars on the internet there was a nice Camaro Convertible for sale near Atlanta. It was purple and very rare. So while in Atlanta, I took a look at it and bought it. Then decided to drive it to Louisiana to visit mom and dad and then I would have it shipped to Reno from there and I would fly back home. However I learned the hard way, if you do not make the first leg of a reservation, then they cancel the rest of the reservation. Fortunately, I was able to get the airline to find me a seat on the plane and I managed to get home. Notice I have a cover over the back seats making it like a roadster, similar to the old T-Birds. It was a great car.



Then in January of 2005, I found myself getting divorced for the third time!!

Terry McPherson

Well life goes on and I did open a car dealership with a small warehouse to keep cars in and on weekends would work on selling them. I was doing ok to start with, buying cars \$700-\$1500 at dealer auction and selling for \$3000-\$5000 and then repeat. I could only have about 5-6 cars at a time though since I was only working with about \$15,000 to run business. Then being cocky I made my first mistake. I bought a very nice Audi Convertible very cheap but still more that I should have paid, \$8000. Retail I should have been able to sell for \$12,000 or more. BUT - the reason no one else at the dealer auction was bidding was that Audi did not have a dealer in Reno and they did not sell well. Well this slowed down my business and no income much since too much tied up in one car. I ended up selling it on the internet and had to drive to Sacramento to meet buyer and I barely broke even. Then I ended up with a couple cars that were not selling so I decided to take them to the Sacramento Auction and had TJ and his buddy Adam and my friend Tom help buy driving cars to Sacramento. On the way home I offered to buy dinner at a Steakhouse that was on the way home but the boys wanted "In an Out Burger"!!! I could not believe it. My best purchase at the dealer auction was my 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix GTP. There were 2 for sale that day, same years. But one was cleaned up and looked very nice. It sold for \$2500. Then the wother one came on the auction block. It was dirty, the drivers window did not go up or down and was open. So interior was

Terry McPherson

dirty. Opening bid was \$600 and I got it for \$1100 and was happy. I took it home, cleaned it, took to Pontiac and paid \$150 to get window regulator replaced and gave it a tune up. It had 90,000 miles on it when I bought it and it had 230,000 miles on it when I sold it. A great car. Well then the final blow for my dealership was after taking advice from TJ that a Dodge diesel could sell for mid \$20,000's, so I bought it at the dealer auction for \$11,000. That tied up all my cash and I could not sell it. I ended up titling it to myself and I closed the dealership.

From the divorce I had sold our house and moved into a rental near TJ's house. It had a 3 car garage and I got interested in building a kit car. A 1936 Ford that I got a deal on kit from the Hot August Nights Events that summer. I was doing pretty good with it, but then when I decided to leave Reno, I knew I would not have space or time to continue, so I sold it.

Terry McPherson



In spring of 2006, dad had an infection in his knee and they took it out and put in a disinfectant block and sent him home for 30-45 days. Nothing holding his leg together but skin. We put a bed by the hallway bathroom and he could barely drag it in there and back. Dad was in southern Louisiana and TJ n I took turns taking off work and going to help him and mom. One of us would drive dads car to airport, put key on top of tire and then the other would fly in same day and get car go back to help them out. While I was there I started thinking about a new job an moving. I had always wanted to live in Dallas. Years ago I have lived in San Antonio and Houston but never Dallas. I applied for a programming job with JHA in Dallas and they had me take an

Terry McPherson

RPG test on the internet. I only got 60% so I figured that was not going to happen. But they offered me a job and agreed to pay to move me out there and a salary MUCH higher than I had in Reno. So by April, I had moved to Dallas, well actually Garland, part of metro area. I rented a house that had a pool and loved it. That summer I had mom and dad come up and help me house shop. Dad and I had actually thought about them moving too but mom would not hear it. While looking at houses made the mistake of saying we thought it would be nice for mom and dad and she found everything wrong with it. Then we looked a couple more houses for me and I found the one I wanted. Realtor said there was another nice one across the street so with mom thinking we were still looking for me a house, she pointed out how nice everything was. We said great, it could be their house!! So we bought houses across the street from each other and I really enjoyed living so close for the next ten years.

JHA paid me too much and gave me 19 days vacation the first year. I was enjoying life and made trips to Europe and many cruises. When I went to Europe, I would fly direct from Dallas to Madrid. There was a program called Vaughan Town that would give me 5 days free room and board just for helping with conversational English for their students learning English. I did that 3-4 different times as I made more trips to Europe. I met these two that lived in Madrid and everytime I was there we went

Terry McPherson

to dinner.



Terry McPherson



This is all that was required to sit and chat so they could improve their conversational English. It was a great time and usually at a resort outside of Madrid.

My Grand Prix was again and I decided to car shop for my birthday as I usually did. I noticed a ad in paper for a 2005 Jaguar S-Type and decided to look at it. Dad had always wanted a E-Type Jag but never had. I liked the Jaguar look. In fact I had pointed out to people on several occasions that my Grand Prix grill and body looked a lot like a Jaguar. I found the dealer and it was one like I had years ago but much bigger. All the cars were in a warehouse and you looked around. I loved the car from first site and they were only asking \$7500 for it. Book price should

Terry McPherson

have been over \$10,000. The owner/salesman explained to me he had a business plan and it had worked for years and brought him back customers. When he bought at the auction, he had a formula to use for determining price to meet his needs. He never looked at book prices. So I bought my first Jaguar and loved it. I thought it was funny with guys at work making remarks like, "Somebody is getting paid too much". They would point out I was driving a Jaguar!! Hahaaa I told them I less invested that they did in their Toyota or Ford. When I totaled it a few years later, I got \$10,000 from insurance to replace it and I found the exact model and color online in Denver and bought it site unseen and had it shipped. So I went from a Jaguar with 150,000 miles to one with 33,000 miles and it did not cost me anything.

Terry McPherson



When I moved to Dallas area I started doing a lot of dancing again and was really enjoying life. Hard to believe that 10 years had passed since the turn of the century!!