

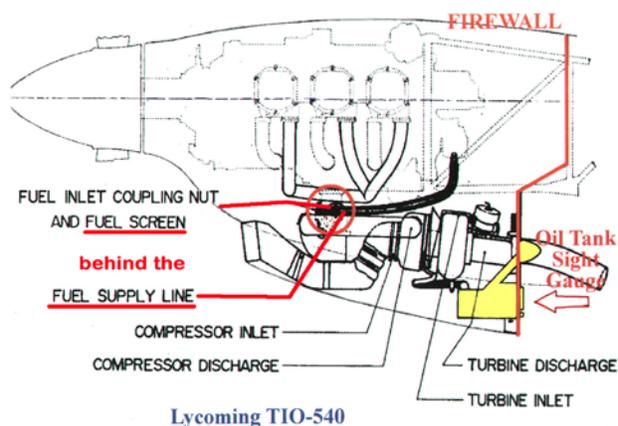


The lessons in life that my father taught me have been a guide for me when dealing with human error; mine and others. The old saying: **“like father; like son”** has a lot of truth in it. If you go back to the October 2018 Attitude issue you may recall that the first and most important attitude age was the 0 to 7 years old stage where the parents are the major influence. My father was a major

influence on a “know it all kid” a lot of years ago and I have a lot to thank him for. One of his favourite means of imparting values and meaning of life was to use sayings that were easy to remember but had a valuable message. I’d like to impart some I remember that guide me today with the hope a few might provide you with a little “food for thought.” The following are 12 (of course) of the many I remember.

#1. If you want perfection you have to die and go to heaven but that doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t strive for it.

This was one of his favourites and the positive message has served me well over the years. We work in an industry that expects perfection every time. We strive to deliver that goal but errors do and will continue to occur. Thus we must work to eliminate,(the ideal) mitigate or at least educate the source of a potential error.



For example. A mod to an engine resulted in a fuel line being moved to now pass right in front of the fuel filter. This line had to be removed and replaced every time the filter needed to be cleaned. The check sheet was never changed to reflect this requirement and one day a very conscientious AME failed to tighten the fuel line when he was distracted at a critical moment. Eight people would die due to this error with the eighth

being the person who left it loose. The fix? Someone has to recognize that the system was a hazard to Safety and not just think that it is common sense to reinstall and retighten this fuel line. Eliminate: Reroute it so it doesn’t pass in front of the fuel filter. Great idea but may not be practical. Mitigate: Perhaps colour the line a bright red with a warning. Educate: Add a step on the checklist to reinstall and

retighten the fuel line. Anyone of the three would have prevented this fatal error. None of us are perfect but we can strive to be and work to “Murphy proof” any hazard that has the potential to enable a human error. This ties in with the next one.

#2. If you are human remember YET when you or others make an error.

YET stands for “**You’re Eligible Too**”. Ever since Adam and Eve took a bite out of the forbidden apple, we humans have been making errors and sadly, are doomed to continue to do so. I recall when facilitating a class of very experienced AMEs one informed me that they did not need this class as they all followed the manual check sheet requirements religiously. The class nodded in agreement. So I asked how many had been divorced. Surprisingly about a third had. That was a human error as you didn’t intend the consequences and likely broke a few of the marriage vows/ regulations. When I asked how many had ever had a speeding or parking ticket? Almost all the hands were up. Any one who thinks that they will never make a human error are the most dangerous persons around. Just always remember **YET**.

#3. Anyone can make a mistake but only a fool makes it twice.

It seems that some of us are slow learners and need to be hit on the head more than once for the lesson to sink in. I have a grandson who loved to speed until he lost the privilege to drive. When that still didn’t stop him, he saw jail time and a five year ban on driving. Lesson finally learned at a high price.

#4. You can learn the hard way or from the mistakes of others.

Now that is one to take to heart as mistakes happen to every one and hopefully there are lessons to be learned to prevent a reoccurrence. Much of aviation’s present Safety record has come from the mistakes of others that result in lessons learned to prevent a reoccurrence

#5. Remember when you don’t have time to fix something, you will when it fails.

Now this is one for all maintenance personal as we tend to know when something is likely to fail and put off fixing it for higher priorities. As I had a commercial pilot’s license with New Guinea experience as well as a LAME (Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) license, they loved to send me to a muddy hole in the jungle to fly fuel drums to another muddy hole in the jungle. The Goodyear brakes on the early Cessna 185s would pick up mud and cause the brakes to slowly fail to do their job. As I was multitalented they send me to fly by day and clean the mud out of the brakes by night. As you might guess, I was tired at the end of a long hot day and felt the brakes were good for another day. On touch down with the full drums on board, the right brake failed. The left was weak also and as the end of the strip neared, I applied full left rudder and a burst of power. I slid sideways to the end of the strip. Of course, Murphy’s law was in action; my tools were at the other strip so they had to fly a plane in to pick up the tools and fly them up to me the next day. I could just hear my Dad’s saying ringing in my ears.

#6. Anything worth doing is worth doing right.

Dad was a stickler for this saying that sort of ties in with the previous one. I quickly learned that this was the only way to do things even if there were times when it would invoke the first saying due to the time it was taking to be sure that it was done right.

#7. Be the very best that you can be and you'll apologize to no one.

This ties in with his saying that “the world owes you nothing but you have the responsibility to make it a better place.” We can do this by working at being the best that we can. My father worked right to the end at being the best. He was known as Mr. Volunteer. If he could help you he would without hesitation. I try to be like him.

#8. It is better to forgive and forget than to carry a grudge.

This saying matched his saying to “**never go to bed mad.**” I know two brothers who won't talk to each other and likely don't even remember what the original grudge was. Life is too short to waste time and energy holding a grudge.

#9. Never judge a man until you've walked a mile in his shoes because every man has a reason for his actions but you just don't know it.

This is a very old saying that would make a huge change in the world if we all followed it. Dad also had the saying when a person of a certain belief committed a crime one had to “**blame the singer, not the song.**”

#10. You are not stupid and don't ever tell yourself that no matter what you've done.

Dad would never accept, when I did a stupid teenage thing, that that moment of poor decision making was proof that I was stupid. Refer back to saying number three. You had to learn from it and NOT do it again as that would make you a fool.

#11. The aches and pains as you get old are the price you pay for the privilege of getting old.

In Dad's latter years he suffered from something called gout. I would know as he would limp and appeared to be in severe pain. When asked if he was ok he would use the above quote. As arthritis stiffens my joints I remember that saying and like Dad, not let it stop me from doing what I want to do.

#12. It's a great day to be alive.

As a kid over 60 years ago he would tell me it was a great day to be alive whenever I was feeling low over something. He would go on to say that there were millions of kids who would love to trade places with me and for many this would be their last day on earth. Who knew that about 40 years later that saying would become a hit country and western song.

Dad's positive outlook on life served him well and with his words of wisdom I hope to be “a chip off the old block.” I also hope that a few of these will give you

pause for thought. With Christmas just around the corner, I wish you all the best of the season and a healthy, happy and Safe 2019.