

About the Author

I've often wondered throughout my life what it would be like to write a book – to tell the story of some interesting event that I have had the good pleasure of experiencing. I often felt that I would write someday, but which part of my life would draw enough interest to make such a book worth writing? What kind of a story would captivate and inspire others?

Many have suggested that I tell the story about how I met and married my wife: how we met as pen pals from opposite sides of the globe and wrote letters for 7 years, how through persistence I overcame all odds of us ever being together and how we've now been married for over 20 years with 4 wonderful children.

Others believed a book on determination and perseverance would inspire others. Such a book could, in part, describe the time when, at the age of 14, I watched a story of a young girl my age (Nancy) who had been swimming at a public beach in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota, across town from where I lived in Bloomington. A small aircraft had lost power and crashed into the water where many people were swimming. Nancy nearly lost her life. Although her life was spared, her legs were not. They required amputation. The medical bills were astronomical. I recall feeling moved to do something to help, but what could I do? I was just a kid.

About this same time, there was news about a group of softball players that were attempting to break the state record for the most consecutive innings played in a single softball game. The record was 126 innings. Then I had an idea! If I could inspire my buddies to play in *the most exciting softball game ever* and get them to encourage their parents, relatives and neighborhood adults to pledge money per inning played, then we could not only attempt to break the state record, but also raise money for Nancy!

The idea became reality. In 1969, on the longest Saturday of the year, we played our hearts out from 4:45 in the morning to 9:25 at night! Not only did we set the state record with 178 innings in a single softball game, but we also raised just over \$250 for Nancy (that wasn't a bad donation back then).

Such a book on determination and perseverance could go on by describing how, in the following year, we learned of a fellow high school student who needed a kidney transplant. The medical bills as a result of her dialysis were staggering as her parents had no medical insurance. Once again, this same group of awesome guys were rallied together to help. We worked harder and smarter than the year before. At the end of the effort, we had raised over \$1,200 and smashed our own state record by completing an amazing 205 innings during daylight hours.

I'll never forget, at the age of 16, when I played 37½ hours of continuous ping-pong with my 14-year-old friend Jerry. At the time, we were going for the world record of 42 hours straight. Sorry Jerry, I knew how disappointed you were when I nearly collapsed just hours away from entering "the record book." Nevertheless, we raised a bunch of cash for Muscular Dystrophy. Could the details of a story like this inspire others?

If I opted to write such a book on determination and perseverance, I'd certainly include chapters about the Marine Corps; and one of the most significant events in my life – those 81 days called "boot camp"! At the end of all that grueling training, out of some 200 men in our four-platoon series, I was selected as the top Marine graduate. This accomplishment paved the way for fast promotions over the remainder of my four years of service, not to mention the confidence that was instilled deep within me. It was a confidence that I'd carry with me for the rest of my life. But told in a book, just how inspiring might that be to others?

Perhaps the most significant part of any book I'd ever write would deal with the topic of real estate. For over 21 years I have invested myself in this field, and have helped families buy and sell homes, lots of homes – over 2500 homes valued in excess of a half a billion dollars and counting. From being the top salesperson in Minnesota (eight times) to Hall of Fame, from Lifetime Achievement to being ranked in the Top 10 in the nation within the RE/MAX organization, my success in real estate has been nothing short of monumental. I've had the privilege and honor of being sought after as a real estate speaker and trainer, inspiring real estate agents and brokers around the world on how to achieve greater levels of success within their businesses.

I've developed a passion for what I do and for sharing what I've learned. I have truly been blessed.

So back to the initial question: Would events like these be interesting enough to inspire others? Would they be significant enough for me to take the time to put such details on paper and offer them to the world? Possibly, but I have never taken the liberty of doing so. They do however serve a purpose here and now; that is to give you a very brief background of who I am. There is simply no comparison between the events mentioned above and the magnitude of the incredible story that is about to unfold before your eyes.



A blue ink handwritten signature that reads "Jeff Scislow". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jeff Scislow

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