

"Second Age" reminds us to enjoy simple and important things, such as eating oatmeal and raisins, hearing red-winged blackbirds calling, meeting new people, and seeing new places. The author draws you into his adventures from the early 1930's on the upper Mississippi and in the Far East, and you live them as he re-lived them in his memory while writing about them. "Second Age" is highlighted with original photos from those days and those travels. It is delightful to read.

In *Second Age*, you're pulled into the author's travels and adventures in the early 1930's during the Great Depression. He wrote simply and directly, from the heart, in a warm and personal manner that you enjoy reading.

You live his adventures when he was a student and as a young man. He and a poet friend floated part way down the Mississippi in a shanty boat during the Great Depression, with adventures, challenges, and good and bad times along the way.

After they reached LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and his Mississippi journey was over, he traveled west to San Francisco, he found work as a bellboy aboard the President Coolidge and traveled to cities and ports in Japan, China, the Philippines, and other places.

*Second Age* evokes a time of simpler living and of firm and kind values. You experience a joy and a depth in what life has to offer and in what it has to teach. There is a place in each of us that needs to know the importance of appreciating what you have in your life.

He re-lived these times while he was writing about them when he was in his late 80's. He re-experienced places and actually felt how they were. He felt love, happiness, and fear, he knew smells and tastes all over again, and he felt sunlight, storms, cold and damp.

We often forget how to enjoy the simple necessities of life. *Second Age* takes us to a time when eating oatmeal and raisins, having a warm place to be, hearing red-winged blackbirds calling, meeting new people, and seeing new places are enough to deeply touch the heart, mind, and soul.

The author, Carl Franson was one of ten children of whom seven survived, born to hard-working, first generation immigrants. Working to make his way in life was second nature to him. He possessed an intense curiosity about life, people, and natural wonders around him. This openness comes through in his story about his life as a young man on the upper Mississippi and travels to the Far East.

When he began to write about his experiences as a young man, he was in his eighties but he found himself pacing the floor, remembering details of adventures, tasting how delicious simple foods are when you're very hungry, appreciating the warmth and goodness of people he met along the way, appreciating the sights and sounds of the Mississippi and of the Far East.

He was a good natured person who appreciated and kept a positive rather than a negative outlook about people and life, who was a realist, but who believed above all else in the fundamental power of love.

