

To Christina Brooks
THE BORELLI STORY
By
Her Dad
Robert Gerald Borelli
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As we approach the end of 2010, it is the time to remind you that one half of you is a Borelli and to give you and your children a little history on the Borelli's and why you should be proud for that name. It will be up to you to continue the story. Some others carried the name and made significant contributions to society, worked to help others, served their country, and kept their Christian faith. Although not perfect, the first American born surviving Borelli's' overcame hard financial times, sibling's death, and a loveless parental marriage to ensure that the Borelli name would stand for a person of character. A person that could stand alone and always know what is right and what is wrong and choose to do what is right no matter the consequences.

Your Great Grandfather Frank, born around 1876, came from the Province of Naples Italy to this new land so he and his heirs could prosper. He married, had five children and became a Barber. His Barber shop was located near the New Haven Rail Road Station and as a result, he had Wall Street brokers as customers. As anyone who ever got a haircut knows, Barbers love to talk. Grandpa Borelli asked, in his broken English, about the stock market and what stocks to buy. Based on the tips he received, he invested in the market and made a lot of money. In-turn, he invested that money in Brownstone homes on Chapel Street in New Haven opposite the Columbus Green. It is with these Brownstones he housed his family and rented to others. As I said Grandpa Borelli had 5 children; John, Alphonse, Ralph, Ann, and Josie. Josie was born Autistic and died at the age of 13. Since Grandpa Borelli came to America because it offered opportunities not found in Italy, he wanted to make sure the other 4 children could be successful and that they received a good education. John went on to medical school and became a Doctor; Alphonse graduated from High School with grades good enough for college, Ralph went to Yale Music School on sponsorship, and Ann studied to be a Nurse. All was going well until the great depression of 1929. Within a couple of years of the depression, Grandpa Borelli lost most of his savings. It did not affect John since he graduated from Marquette University in 1931. However it did affect the rest of the children. The loss of money by Grandpa, brought on other problems including marital problems. These problems were severe enough that both Ralph and Ann had mental breakdowns and ended up committed to Norwich State Mental Hospital. Since Grandpa could not afford the cost of institutionalizing Ralph & Ann, the State of Connecticut took the Brownstones in exchange for lifetime care of Ralph & Ann. In particular, Ralph's breakdown was a terrible loss since he was a great pianist that accompanied all the great Opera singers, of the day, that performed at Yale. Ralph died in 1954 at the age of 48. Ann lived on to her 80s and was released from Norwich State hospital in the late 1980s. She died in a Nursing home in West Haven in the 1990s. Grandpa died in 1959 at the age of 83. I do not know much about Ralph but someone told me if I watched the 1996 Australian film SHINE, I could understand Ralph and why he had a breakdown. I watched it and understood a little more about Ralph. I did not know Ann at all but later when she was released from Norwich State Hospital and sent to a nursing home in West Haven, my mother would visit her bring her clothes and give her money. Debbie visited Ann once, I never did.

John, born in 1901 was the most successful of the siblings became a doctor; married a woman named Ruth Keiser, and moved to Hamilton Ohio. John did his residency at Mercy Hospital in Hamilton Ohio. Since Ruth's family was very successful, after his residency, they set John up in a practice, bought him a house, and asked their friends to go to him for medical treatments. Frank was extremely disappointed since he wanted his son to practice medicine in New Haven. All was going well with John until World War II broke out. Since at the outset of World War II we were fighting the Germans as well as the Italians and since Ruth was of German heritage and John was of Italian heritage, the United States drafted John, at 42 years of age, into the US Army Medical Corps. He served in the Pacific theater and ended up a MASH doctor in the Philippine's invasion campaign. Serving as a medical doctor on the battlefield his skills at medical treatments were greatly enhanced since the Field Doctors had to perform surgery as well as ordinary medical treatment. When World War II ended in the Pacific, John was the first medical Doctor that went into occupied Japan. He served until 1946 and was discharged a Lieutenant Colonel. For his contributions to the service of his country, John was awarded the Selective Service Medal of Honor. He went back to Ohio and his practice. Since his military experience elevated his medical skills, he became one of the most sought out Doctors in the Cincinnati area. This gained him new patients from the elite including Cincinnati Reds ball players. John retired his practice when he turned 65 and went on to be Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cincinnati. When the Hospital closed due to budget restraints, John went back to Mercy Hospital, where he interned, to open and run their new trauma center. In appreciation for John's service, the hospital named the center The John F. Borelli Trauma Center. John died in 1984.

Al, your grandfather born in 1903, was the second son and although he had better grades in H.S. than John, the rule of the day was that the first born son was the one to further his education if there was money available. So Al did not further his education. Being somewhat of a good time guy, Al did all sorts of things as a young adult. One of his jobs was an usher at a burlesque show where one of the girls was shot in front of him. He remembered that experience and soon quit being an usher. He met Marie, your grandmother and they married in 1933 when Al was 29 years old and Marie was 24. This was at a time when most people got married in their teens or early 20s. I guess they both were having such a good time being single they did need to settle down. They did have a good time during their marriage continuing going out to night clubs, taking trips with their friends and having family parties. The depression lingered on and Al could not find a job and finally out of desperation took a job as a school janitor with the New Haven Board of Education. At a time when most people were struggling, Al had a steady job. He also took on other cleaning jobs on a part time basis. Marie opened her own dry goods store and did some seamstress work. Her education was from a trade school that taught her the fundamentals in designing and making of clothes. In her single life, she worked in New York City living in a Boarding house and working in the garment industry. She became very good at her chosen career and used her experience to work in retailing clothing stores for many years. Al and Marie had 2 children Ronald born in 1936 when Al was 33 and Marie was 27 and Robert born in 1939 when Al was 36 and Marie was 30. Al bought his first house around 1940 and the address was 407 Lombard Street, New Haven, Connecticut. Since Marie's family was impoverished and had a difficulty paying a rent, as a result they moved in with Al & Marie. Besides Marie's parents there were also her 2 single brothers Salvatore & Jerry that moved in as well. Later on her sister Jenny got divorced and she and her 2 children Joann and Geraldine moved in too. To us kids it was a great time, I am sure Al & Marie were not thrilled but it was the right thing to do.

Al took a position as head custodian at Kimberly Ave. School which was across town. This always presented a problem during snow storms when Al had to get to the school early to shovel. During the war there were blackouts since New Haven was home to many arms factories. Al, at times, needed a police escort to get to work when it was still dark. At the outset of World War II, Jerry volunteered for military service. Soon after basic training he shipped out to North Africa to fight the Germans and the Italians. Having a first born American of Italian decent fighting other Italians was acceptable since we were Americans first, Italians second. When Jerry came back in 1946, he was able to purchase a 3 family home using his G.I. Bill benefits. Marie's Mother, Father, and Brother Salvatore moved in to Jerry's new home. This allowed Al to buy a home near his job at the Kimberly Ave. School. Thus Al, Marie, Ronald who was 11, and Robert who was 7, moved to 83 Kimberly Ave. Lombard Street was in one of the Italian sections of New Haven and the boys had lots of friends and relatives in walking distance from Lombard Street. Both Ron & Bob served as Alter Boys at Saint Donato's Church, an Italian Parrish that held one Sunday mass in the Italian language. The church was also located on Lombard Street. Kimberly Ave was located on the Hill Section of New Haven and primarily an Irish neighborhood. Most of our neighbors Fathers worked for the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad. Al decided that he would remodel his 100 year old house. The first thing he did was to get rid of the coal fired furnace and replace it with an oil fired burner. This allowed him to finish the basement. The finished basement included a full kitchen, a dining room/living room and a full bath. The addition allowed him to rent the second floor of the home. His first renters were a newlywed couple named Margret and Bill. Bill was a World War II vet. The couple was of Italian heritage and was welcomed as family. There were many times when Marie would invite them down for dinner and they would accept. They were a fun and loving couple and when Margret got pregnant they needed to find a bigger rent. We were all saddened when they left. Al decided it was time to take in his father Frank who was widowed and having eyesight problems. Grandpa Borelli moved into our second floor apartment and Ron & Bob used the second upstairs bedroom to sleep. There were many parties held in Al's basement most notably were family bridal and baby showers since someone in Maries' family was either getting married or having a baby. Al also owned a lot in Milford and every summer on Sundays the whole Ferraro & Borelli clan would picnic there. Marie's uncle built a garage like shed on the property and Al used it to store all his furniture and pots and pans. Being Italian and being Sunday the menu was always pasta. The kids would fetch the water from a fresh water spring, and the adults would build the fire and cook. So after a swim in a nearby beach and playing horse shoes or baseball the whole clan would sit down for a great dish of pasta and meatballs. These Sunday outing went on for years until the kids reached their teens and lost interest in going to the lot. Al & Marie always invited their son's friends to meet at our home. Al had the first TV in the neighborhood and the kids loved to watch it. There was always something going on at Al's home whether it be parties or neighbor's kids, or the family's friends, the Borelli home was always full of laughter, music, and joy. The boys were active in the Club Scouts, the Boy's Scouts, the Church, and organized baseball. Marie was always there for them being a den mother or a booster parent or a PTA member. Al wanted his sons to have the education he was denied. Money being tight Al had to work 3 jobs to pay for the private schools, Ron's piano lessons, and the trumpet lessons for Bob. His first job was as a janitor at Kimberly Ave. School.

When he finished that job at around 4 PM, he went to Drazen's Lumber Company to clean their offices. He then came home for dinner and after dinner we all went to Andrew B. Hendryx Co. to clean their offices. This worked well until one night, Marie got stuck in the Elevator and when the managers of Hendryx came to free her, they found out that there were underage boys cleaning their office and let Al go. This left a whole in Al's budget since, at that time, he was paying tuition to Saint Peters for his 2 boys to attend and music lessons. Al made up the loss of income by working on weekends at Drazen's Lumber's new store. Marie also went to work in retail sales in New Haven. Al & Marie continued to work while sending their 2 sons to Notre Dame High School, a college prep school that was very expensive. Al loved to play cards and loved bowling. He and Marie had loads of friends always took trips, and went night clubbing. Al also like to buy new cars which he did about every 4 years. The Borelli's went to visit Al's brother John in Ohio every summer and John would visit Connecticut every fall. Al's Father Frank died in 1959 in Al's Kimberly Ave. Home. He moved the family to North Haven in 1960. He also took a position as Head Custodian at Hill House High School. At Hill House H.S. he managed a staff of around 19 people. He died on the job at Hill House H.S. from a massive stroke in January of 1965 at the age of 62 while arguing with the Department of Education in defense of one of his employees.

Ron, born May 26, 1936 made friends very early. He was the most talented one of the two brothers. Already a great piano player when he moved to Kimberly Avenue, he was good looking, had a great personality, and thus attracted lots of girls. Ron also was a great student. It seemed learning came easy to Ron, but he later admitted, it took a lot of hard work on his part.

Never the less, Ron graduated number 1 in his grammar school class. Ron & Bob started out going to Kimberly Ave. School. Their Dad was the janitor so all the teachers knew the boys and the boys knew them. Later Ron, and then Bob, transferred to Saint Peter's School and both went on to Notre Dame High School. Both Ron and Bob were good baseball players and played on Saint Peter's Baseball team. Both were good enough to play in high school but Al wanted them to letter in music and that's what they did. Ron was 3 years ahead of Bob in school and continue to set exceptional high standards which Bob had difficulty following. Ron continued to take piano lessons both Jazz and Classical. His jazz teacher was a talented piano player that was an African American and lived in an all-black neighborhood. Once a week Marie, Ron, & Bob would take 2 busses to Dick Pedaway's home in the all black neighborhood so Ron good get his piano lessons. Sometimes Dick was not in good shape to give a lesson so they took the 2 busses back home.

Marie and Al felt it was well worth the occasional mishap for Ron to get his jazz lessons. Dick played in the Count Basie Band when they played in New York. Dick's style of Jazz was unique and Ron was his protégé. Ron also at the same time took Classical music lesson from Fred Rungee who lived in the neighborhood. Fred would come to Ron's home to give the lessons. Ron was developing into a great Concert and Jazz pianist in the same vein as Uncle Ralph. But Ron was also a gifted student who got all A(s) in his studies. After graduating from Notre Dame High School, second in his class, Ron needed to decide whether to further his education in Music or Engineering. He chose Engineering. Ron applied to University of Connecticut and was accepted. His major was Aeronautical Engineering. Ron did well in his first semester. His second semester did not turn out well for him. He had joined a fraternity and decided that he wanted to have fun. This led to his grades falling and a notification by the school that he was going to be dropped from his major. After consulting with the schools counselors, it was determined that Ron had not matured enough to handle the fun part of schooling without affecting his studies. One of the solutions they offered was for Ron to join the military to gain maturity. Ron did just that and joined the army and committed himself to 2 years of service. When he came home to tell Al what he did, of course Al was furious, since money was tight and Al had just wasted two semesters of tuition. But he accepted the premise that Ron needed to mature. So off Ron went into the Army. His 2 year service had him at a missile base in upstate NY. He also joined the army baseball team and traveled from base to base playing different teams. He broke his finger in one of the games that late in life would prevent him from playing piano. Near the end of his army service, Ron started to look for colleges to go to. He felt ready to take on a more challenging major. When his friend from his H.S. band days called him, and asked if he would join him at Providence College where his friend also had a band, Ron jumped at the chance. The band needed a piano player and an arranger and Ron could do both. So Ron applied to Providence College, got accepted, and picked as a major, Physics. This major was the most difficult offered since it involved 3 engineering studies, Electrical, Mechanical, and Chemical. Ron felt confident that he could prevail and he felt he owed it to Al. With the band, which had 30 pieces, playing all over New England colleges, Ron was able to pay for some of his tuition and living expenses. He also helped clean offices with Al and Bob on weekends and school breaks. Ron stayed on at Providence for 2 years until one summer at a beach in West Haven; he met his future wife Rose Marie Garcia. Being away from Rose Marie was hard so he changed schools after his second year.

Ron applied to and got accepted to Fairfield University in Fairfield Connecticut keeping his major in Physics. This allowed Ron to live at home, work with Al & Bob cleaning offices, and to see Rose Marie. Ron & Rose Marie were married in 1960 when Ron was 24. He was in his senior year at Fairfield. Graduating the following year with a grade average that put him in the top 5% of his class, Ron went to work for Sperry Rand Corporation in Norwalk Connecticut. The following year Sperry Rand moved their operations to California. Since it required a move, Ron decided to leave Sperry Rand and accepted a position with Honeywell in Waltham, Mass. Ron and Rose Marie moved to Massachusetts and had a baby girl they named Donna. Donna was named after a hurricane they went through on their honeymoon in Miami Florida in 1960. Ron excelled at Honeywell and in a few years took on a project that Honeywell bought from IBM. The project was the development of a Page Printing System (PPS). Since IBM and previous to them Xerox could not make the project successful, Ron had a difficult task. Putting a good team together and working nights and weekends for a couple of years sometimes without pay, Ron finally got the PPS system to work. The product basically took a big roll of paper about 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide and with a computer controller and ink jet technology the PPS system could print any size, any quantity, and in any color. It would also collate the results and wrap the final product. In order to get the system to work, Ron authored over 20 patents from chemical composition of the paper and ink to mechanical delivery of the paper. Ron's team grew and PPS became an International product. Ron got the position of Director of PPS worldwide systems. Although Ron had more responsibility than most Vice Presidents in Honeywell, Honeywell's management was WASP and was biased against Americans of Italian Descent. Ron stayed with Honeywell for 20 years and at one time moved to Edmond Oklahoma when Honeywell bought out G.E's Computer division. It was in Oklahoma where Ron and Rose Marie adopted Michelle. Going back to Massachusetts after a couple of years in Oklahoma, Ron was getting frustrated with Honeywell's lack of support for the PPS system. Ron did not know it at the time but Honeywell was trying to sell the PPS system to Xerox. The problem was that Xerox did not want the system unless Ron came with it which meant that Ron would have to move to California. Ron did not want to work for Xerox or move to California so he found a position as Senior Vice President in Huntsville Alabama with a company called SCI. The company was a contract manufacturing company with their biggest customer being I.B.M. SCI was building all I.B.M.'s first generation personal computers. SCI also manufactured Cell Phones for Nokia. The company was growing exponentially with new opportunities coming from all over the globe.

This was great experience for Ron since the senior management consisted of only 3 people, the CEO, the President, and Ron. So Ron, Rose Marie, Donna, and Michelle moved to Huntsville Alabama. After a few years with SCI, Ron felt he could take on the responsibility of running his own company. He saw an opportunity in a company called Spectra. So Ron moved his family to Bedford New Hampshire to become C.E.O of Spectra. Spectra was a leading developer of hot melt ink jet technology for color imaging, which Ron built into a profitable and rapidly growing business. Basically Ron successfully took Spectra from a failing company that had technology lawsuits against them to a very successful company. After Spectra sold to Markem Inc in 1996, Ron joined Aavid Thermal Technology as their chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors. Ron built Aavid Thermal into the world's largest and most profitable heat sink company, bringing the company from \$35 million in revenues to more than \$300 million in revenues in less than six years. Ron stepped down as C.E.O in January 2000 remaining as chairman of the Board. Ron was 64 years old and wanted to take more time for his family and his passion for golf. In 1998, Business New Hampshire Magazine named Ron "Business Man of the Year. Ron went on to startup Vette Corporation and acted as the company's chairman of the board. He also started up a Bentley Kinetics, a golf training technology Company. In his retirement years Ron was very active in CCSNH, New Hampshire's statewide system of two-year colleges, which Ron served as a director. After Ron died CCSNH created their first Legacy Scholarship award which was named in memory of him after his passing. Ron passed away in July 2006 at the age of 70.

Bob was born December 5th, 1939. World War II was going on for three months and four days and the United States was still in a depression. Where Ron was the first of the grandchildren, Bob was the sixed grandchild of Marie's family. At the age of around two, Bob fell down the cellar stairs in his walker and broke his nose. This resulted in years of unexpected bloody noses that didn't get resolved until Bob stopped growing at the age of 16. A couple of days after Bob's second birthday, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States was at war with Japan, Germany, and Italy. During the war and because the City of New Haven was a military manufacturing city, it was blacked out at night and there was a curfew. In early 1942 his Uncle Jerry joined the Army. He came back to Lombard Street after his basic training for a couple of weeks. After that he shipped over to North Africa and fought Germans and Italians. His military service included campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, main land Italy, and Germany. During the war both Bob and Ron served as Alter Boys in Saint Donato's Church. Although Bob was not old enough to serve Mass, he did serve at Benediction services. Bob, as an Alter Boy in training, still had to learn to say all of the prayers in Latin. No small task for a 5 year old. As I said Bob did serve at Benediction and at one of the services that the pastor, Father Gaffney, was conducting, a requirement to put a cape on him while he was kneeling at the Alter was Bob's responsibility. Since Bob was small, he could not reach Father Gaffney's shoulders to put on the cape so it required the pastor to lean back. As he leaned back, he fell off of the Alter and Bob laughed. Bob was severely scolded after the service by Father Gaffney but after the scolding Father Gaffney laughed as well. He was a great priest and although he was Irish, he was fluent in Italian and Saint Donato's was an Italian Parrish. There was even a Sunday Mass that was conducted in the Italian language. Father Gaffney would later play a more serious role in Bob's life. As a child on Lombard Street, Bob's life was full of family and friends. Living with Bob's brother and parents were also Marie's mother and Father and her brother Salvatore. Jerry was in the Army and did not come back until 1946. At one time Marie's Sister Jenny, who was having marital problems, also moved in with her two daughters Joann and Geraldine. It was exciting with all the love and activities going on. Marie's father did not speak very good English and all the kids always laughed at his mixing up of words. He laughed as well. Bob's home was also full of music with Ron learning to play the piano and Al who could play the piano entertaining all of the family. Every Christmas and Christmas Eve was spent at Bob's home with the rest of Marie's family coming. The kids would all sleep in the same room. There were six of them which included Bob and Ron, Jenny's children, and Maries other sister Carmel's children, Carmel Ann and Michael. Since the war was still going on and blackouts and curfews were still in effect, everyone slept at the Borelli's home on Lombard Street. Marie had a Dry Goods Store on Lombard Street and after school Bob & Ron would go there. When Marie had to go on deliveries, Marie's mother Anna would take care of the boys. Surrounded by the comfort of loving parents, grandparents, and uncles and aunts, Bob's life was good. Jerry returned home from the war in 1946 and was able to purchase a home using his G.I. Bill benefits. He bought a 3 family home nearby and moved his parents to the first floor. Later Jerry would marry and move to the second floor and still later Jenny and her daughters moved to the third floor. After Jerry bought his home and settled his parents and brother, Al was able to sell the home on Lombard Street and move his family close to where he worked on Kimberly Avenue. Bob had a hard time with the move. He was 7 at the time of the move and had just finished his first year in school. Kimberly Ave was located in the Hill section of New Haven and was in the Irish section of the Hill. In 1947 there was still resentment between the Italians and the Irish and it took Bob awhile to make friends with his school mates.

Bob did have a girl of Italian descent that lived next door that was a year younger than him. Her name was Linda Bacciocci. Linda became Bob's best friend and when Linda moved to West Haven 4 years later Bob was heartbroken. Bob as well as Ron started school at Kimberly Ave School until the 5th grade when both Ron and Bob went on to Saint Peter's School. Ron being 3 & 1/2 years older set the gauge that Bob would be measured both by Bob's parents and his teachers. Ron was very intelligent and very talented and thus set the bar that Bob was to be measured by extremely high. Ron's talent was an obvious contrast to Bob, especially in the playing of musical instruments. Whereas, Ron was an excellent piano player, Bob was a terrible trumpet player. Although Bob took trumpet lessons for 8 years, having a deviated septum made playing a wind instrument difficult. He played so bad that when he played a song even the family dog left the room. These continuous contrasts concerned Al since he did not want to see one brother successful and the other brother not successful. He did not want a repeat of himself and his brother, one of them being a Doctor and the other being a School Janitor. So he pushed both sons equally. Where Ron graduated first in his class at Saint Peter's and second in his class at Notre dame High School, Bob finished in the middle of his Saint Peter's class and had to repeat a year at Notre Dame in order to graduate. What happened to Bob was by the third year of High School his nose bleeds were becoming a nightly occurrence. He had stopped growing and was scheduled to be operated on the following summer to repair his deviated septum which in turn would stop the nose bleeds. Unfortunately Bob was not getting enough sleep and would fall asleep in class. This led to grade failures and a possible suspension from Notre Dame. Bob's doctor talked Notre Dame's faculty into letting Bob repeat his junior year of high school. When Bob came back the following fall he changed from a college course to a business course and for the next 2 years Bob's grade average was a B+. Al never gave up on Bob since when he got I.Q. tested he always scored above average. After high school, and since Bob did not meet all the requirements for college, Al suggested he go to Electronics school. He also suggested that Bob join the National Guard since there was a draft in place. In May of 1959, Bob joined the Connecticut Army National Guard. He was still a senior in high school. Bob was always shy around girls and did not have many girlfriends. He didn't know how to dance and it was a problem meeting girls. Bob met a girl named Rachael Mascola that did show interest in him in the summer of 1958. She had graduated a year earlier from Wilbur Cross High School and was of Italian heritage and was very attractive. Bob was not happy at failing to meet his father's expectation and it was nice to have someone that seemed to care for him and liked him the way he was. Rachael wanted to get married and Bob did not protest. So in 1959, while Bob was still in high school, Bob & Rachael became engaged.

Bob's parents were against the engagement since they felt Bob was too young and Rachael was too eager to get married. Their concerns later proved to be right. Bob & Rachael were married in April of 1961. In the church before the wedding took place Father Gaffney, Bob's old Saint Donato's Pastor and now pastor of the church Bob was getting married at, told Bob that it was not too late to back out of the marriage and if Bob did, Father Gaffney would explain it to the guest. Father Gaffney knew the family that Bob was marrying into and in a nice way tried to save Bob from a disaster. Bob ignored his advice and went ahead with the marriage. He was still going to Electronic School and working the afternoon shift as a full time Janitor at Hill House High School. Bob graduated from Electronics school and interviewed for a field service position with I.B.M. There were a battery of 3 test that I.B.M required, electronics, aptitude, and mechanical. Having just graduated from Electronics school, Bob had no problem with the electronics test and passed it easily. The second test was the aptitude test. It was basically an IQ test. It was a timed test where you had a set time to answer questions. Bob scored the highest mark on the test that was ever recorded in that I.B.M. office. He answered 97 out of 100 correct. The average high was 80 -85. The interviewer was telling Bob he was going to have a great future with I.B.M. The last test was mechanical and Bob failed it, retested and failed it again. Bob was never good with mechanics and being left handed did not help him learn mechanical things. Bob did not get the position with I.B.M. He did get a job in the service department of Addressograph Multigraph (A-M) a business machine company. Bob's marriage was having a lot of problems with in-law interference and his marriage was not going well. Bob and Rachael separated in 1966 and got divorced in 1967. It was a messy divorce which involved Rachael's rebellion with Bob's defiance of her parents. That led to infidelity by Rachael with a man Bob worked with. Since the law at the time required proof of infidelity, it required Bob to hire a lawyer and a detective to prove the infidelity. While Ron's marriage and career were flourishing, Bob was experiencing another failure. Bob had his faith and relied on it while going through the agonizing divorce procedure. Not pursuing the divorce would have been the easy thing for Bob to do. Even when Rachael wanted to get back together Bob knew that things were forever changed and that divorce was the right thing for both of them. Although it was very difficult to go through with the divorce, Bob knew that he needed to correct his mistake. Fortunately for Bob the marriage did not produce any children. That was also the main reason for the problems, Bob wanted children, and Rachael refused to have children. Years later when Bob petitioned the Catholic Church for an annulment, it was granted on those grounds.

Going through the separation and ultimate divorce was the lowest time in Bob's life. He had lost his father and his wife within 2 years. Bob needed to be alone without family and friends pity. One day Bob decided he was going to change his life. He told his Mother, his family, and his friends, that he was going out of town on business and took 3 personal days from work. In those 3 days Bob evaluated himself. He admitted to himself that the mistakes he made were his fault. He came to grips with the fact that he would never be as great as his brother but that he had potential to be better than most. Knowing full well he was a good guy and loyal to his family and friends, he figured out which of them were loyal to him and which of them used him to selfishly elevate themselves. Bob resolved that he would not let people mischaracterizing him. His plan was to build self-confidence, think out any action before he took it, and when it doubt, seek advice from only experienced people. On his relations with others, Bob realized that the people who looked down on him were using his weakness to boost their strength. As a consequence, Bob made a decision on how he would relate to people. He decided that when he could, he would try to elevate the humble but never allow the selfish to control his life. Bob came out of those 3 days a very different person, a person that knew who he was and was comfortable with his new plan. Those 3 days changed Bob's life forever. Not to say that Bob did not make any more mistakes, he did but they were a result of taking calculated risks. Something the old Bob never would do. At Bob's cousin's wedding in 1966, Bob met some new friends. They were single guys, college grads, and believed in having a good time. They invited Bob to join them at their hangout which was a club in New Haven named The Seven Gables. Bob took them up on their invitation. Over a period of months the new friends helped Bob make the transition from married to single life. This involved changing Bob's wardrobe from 3 piece suits to sport clothes, getting rid of his station wagon and getting him a sport's car, and teaching him to dance. Bob also put on some weight and got his hair styled. Bob turned into a good looking single guy and dated a lot of woman. Bob was happy with his new look, life, and attitude and felt he could conquer the world. This new life was fun but Bob knew that it was not real. He still wanted to be married and have children. One day in 1968, at one of the clubs in New Haven, he met Debbie Voss. When he first saw her he kidded to a friend, that he was with, that he would marry her. She was with a group of other people but her beauty stood out. Her look was just the type Bob had always admired. After a brief conversation, she agreed to give Bob her telephone number. Bob could not get her off of his mind and called her within a couple of days for a date. They went out to dinner and Bob found out that not only was she beautiful, she was also smart.

They dated often and enjoyed each other's company. Bob found himself in love with her but needed to tell her that he was divorced. One night after they went out for dinner, he told her and asked her to think about whether it was a problem for her. Bob waited a week before he called her and when he did, she told him that it was not a problem. In 1969, they got engaged and in September 1970 were married. In 1969, Bob started a small direct mailing advertising business with his cousin Michael. Bob had the contacts via his sales position with A-M. The business started to grow with Bob bringing in the accounts and him and Michael getting the work out at night. When Bob got married, the business grew to a point where the work was not getting out so he brought Debbie into the business. She had a good job as a supervisor with Dunn & Bradstreet (D&B) but Bob felt that she would be leaving D&B since shortly after Bob & Deb got married Debbie got pregnant. The direct mail advertising business was going well but there was a cash flow problem. Since most of the work required mass mailings, printing, stuffing envelopes, and the hiring of part time people, there was a lag in time between when the jobs were booked and when the business got paid. Bob tried to bridge this gap by applying for bank loans. The banks turned him down. At this time Debbie gave birth to a beautiful girl they named Christina. Bob had another problem, his partner Michael was having an affair with his wife's cousin and using their office as his meeting place. Consequently the work that Michael was supposed to do at night never got done and the billing was getting more delayed causing a worsening of the cash flow problem. Michael's wife found out about his cheating and told him to leave. This ended any contribution that Michael could make to the business. Bob had an opportunity to sell the business but the buyers wanted Bob to stay on but not Michael. Michael refused to sell his half of the business unless they took him on as well. The buyers walked away from the offer. In 1972 Bob decided that it was not worth the struggle, turned his half over to Michael and walked away with no money or assets. Bob applied back at A-M and got a service man's job out of the Hartford office. Bob, Deb, & Christina were living in New Haven at the time and Bob's territory started in Middletown and covered the eastern part of Connecticut. Since New Haven was a distance from the Bob's territory, Bob & Deb decided to move. They rented an apartment in Salem CT. This was a good move, whereas the New Haven apartment was in the city, the Salem apartment was in the country. Bob & Deb made new friends and were enjoying their new life. One day Bob met a neighbor named Jerry Brodeur and Bob & Deb became best friends with Jerry and his wife Diana. Jerry worked for Dow Chemical as an Instrument Technician and knew that Dow was going to be hiring and asked Bob if he wanted to interview for a job at Dow.

Bob knew that A-M was not doing well and it was only a matter of time that they would be closing the Hartford office so he agreed to an interview. Bob was hired by Dow in 1974. Working in an operating chemical plant was alien to Bob. Whereas Bob always wore a suit or sports jacket to work, this new position was casual attire and on occasion, required coveralls. It was interesting work and Dow was a great company to work for. Since they were using the Foxboro Company's instruments Dow sent Bob to Foxboro's schools to learn their products. Jerry got an opportunity to work on a new project Dow was starting up in Joliet IL. This project was to be Dow's flag ship polystyrene plant that made ABS plastic (used on dashboard of autos). Jerry moved to Joliet in early 1975. Jerry wanted Bob to move there as well since the new plant would be fully automated and be a great opportunity to learn all aspects of instrument control. After a brief trip to Joliet by Bob & Deb, Bob agreed to the move. This was indeed a great opportunity and a turning point in Bob's career. Building the world's largest, fully automated, ABS plant involved challenges that no other chemical company in the world was experiencing at the time. Whereas the normal number of people needed to operate the standard polystyrene plant was 5 per shift, Joliet would have 2 per shift. And whereas the production rate for the average ABS plant was 17,000 pounds per hour, Joliet would average 25,000 pounds per hour. To accomplish these tasks Joliet needed to be a self-sustaining operation with backups in all critical processes. Jerry's job turned more into an engineering position and Bob had the duties of the hands on technician. Jerry and Bob worked well together throughout the building and startup of the plant. Every time a contractor would finish wiring an area, Bob & Jerry would come in at night and check their work. This worked well and they documented errors that were corrected the next day. When the day came to startup the plant Bob & Jerry felt confident that their part of the process was perfect. The startup lasted 36 hours and Bob & Jerry were there the whole time. Dow had their big managers from Midland Michigan there to observe startup. This was great exposure for Bob & Jerry since automated control was the most important part of the startup. The startup went almost perfect and the plant went into production the next day. Later Bob was cited by Dow Chemical in a proclamation noting the significant contribution that Bob made to the success of the Joliet plant. The recognition also came with a cash bonus. At this time in Bob's life, he knew that those years he wasted were behind him. This Dow recognition was even more prestigious since only 2 % of Dow employees ever received a Dow proclamation. It was also going to look good on Bob's resume. Later on at Joliet Jerry got involved with the upcoming computer control migration.

Bob was promoted and took over Jerry's duties which included running the Electrical department as well as the Instrumentation department.

This was another boost for Bob since his Electronic School education did study electrical theory; it never involved practical applications.

Bob had an electrical contractor assigned to him named Walter. Walter taught Bob how motor control centers worked and how to rewire them. Walt was a good friend that Bob & Debbie would have over for dinner. Walt loved Christina and one day brought her a big teddy bear which Christina named Walty. It was in Joliet that Bob decided to go back to School. Since Dow was migrating to computers' Bob wanted to take courses that would help. Dow was paying for the tuition as long as Bob picked a major that Dow approved. Bob picked Business with a minor in Computers. Bob did well earning 21 credits at Joliet Junior College. Later when he moved back to Connecticut, he enrolled in the University of New Haven, Mitchell College campus and earned another 6 credits. Bob had earned a 3.8 grade average and wanted to continue. Since going to school nights was taking a long time, Bob wanted to get Elective Credits for his Electronic School education. He felt that since it was a 2 year school, 5 hours of classroom and lab per day, and in session for 50 weeks per year that it was equivalent to a 4 year degree. The University of New Haven did not agree and refused to give Bob any credits. Bob decided he had the equivalent of 6 years of formal education and that was enough. He stopped going to school and instead concentrated on his career. Bob & Debbie bought their first home in Essex IL, population of 423. It was fun living in this little farming community and they made many friends. However Illinois, in no way was Connecticut. The topography was flat and the weather was terrible. Hot in the summer with constant treats of tornadoes and cold in the winter with wind chills down to the -40s. Bob looked for a way to get back to Connecticut. Since Jerry had the lock on being the computer engineer, Bob knew that his opportunities were limited. Although Bob now in a management position and had people working for him, he was stuck with the everyday job of keeping the now 2 plants running (a second plant DeraKane was built in 1976). Bob could see that the future was in Computerized Control and as long as Jerry had that position there was no way Bob was going to get it. He was just too valuable at doing what he was doing to leave that position. Bob looked for an opportunity elsewhere in Dow. A friend from Dow Connecticut called one day and told Bob that their Latex plant was going to be upgraded to Computer control and wanted to know if Bob was interested. It was to take about 2 years to do the upgrade so the job would be temporary. To the anger of Jerry, Bob took the job and in 1978 bought a home in Ledyard CT and moved his family there. This was a great opportunity for Bob to actually program computers that controlled a process.

It was a difficult learning curve and Bob had some problems with the Latex management. Bob knew that the Job was temporary so he put up with the problems. If he wanted to stay with Dow after the Connecticut upgrade, he would have to go to Brazos Port Texas or Midland Michigan. Bob did not want to leave Connecticut so in 1981 he decided to leave Dow. Dow was a great experience for Bob and made Bob an expert in Computerized Instrumentation Control. Bob was accepted in two companies, Northeast Utilities and Bristol Babcock. Northeast Utilities was strictly a computer programming position which Bob would find a career ending opportunity but a well-paying secure job. He decided on Bristol Babcock which would allow him freedom to grow. His first position was Startup Engineer. Bob was picked to field startup Bristol's first Distributed Control System (DDS). The project was in upstate New York and because the product was just out of development it had a lot of problems. Having the Dow experience behind him, Bob was able to work through all of the problems. He later went on to start up 2 more DDS systems. Bob was not impressed with the system engineering that took place prior to the systems being shipped, so he applied and got a position as a system engineer. This was a promotion and an increase in salary. One of the first projects Bob was handed was for an Army Corp of Engineers job at Avco Lycoming. The project was a difficult control job and they wanted Bob's Dow experience with critical control. The project involved controlling an environmental chamber for the M-1 Abrams Tank engine. Working with an engineer from York Compressors division, Bob designed a system that controlled 4, 2 stage, compressors that simulated desert conditions. Bob went on to engineer other less challenging projects. In 1985 Bob realized that although engineering had its mental awards, the people in marketing were making more money, so Bob transferred to the marketing department's contract and bidding department. Bob went on to head that department having 8 people working for him, his own office and secretary, and a coveted special parking space. Two of the people reporting to Bob were corporate lawyers one held a Dallas Cowboy's super bowl ring. Bob was very successful at this position but even though he would receive yearend bonuses, they were not always coming. He saw that the people making the bonuses and the commissions were the salesmen. So when a position for the Northeast Regional Sales Manager came up in 1987, Bob expressed interest in it and got it. The Regional System Manger's position was the job Bob was the best at. All of his experience from technical school, to computer control, to engineering and field startup, to his writing skills played into his success. Bob had a 3 million dollar per year quota and exceeded it every year. One year Bob was responsible for booking over 6 million dollars and set a record that no one at Bristol has yet to break.

Bob was also responsible for bringing in The American Water's Service Company as a dedicated account. Bob, at their request serviced the account nationally. At the time American Water's was the largest private water company in the U.S. and 3rd in the world. With Bob serving the account, they standardized on Bristol equipment and Bob held the account as National Account Manager for 12 years until his retirement in April 2000. Bob made his most money ever as Regional Sales Manager averaging triple digit figures per year. Bob also was responsible for introducing Bristol to radio telemetry by advising Bristol's President to purchase a company Bob was working with. Bristol had tried to design a radio telemetry system but failed to get one operational. The company, Bob suggested buying, already had a product and with very little software adaptation, Bristol was able to get a process control radio telemetry system on the market. This led Bristol into a new venture and would result in Bristol becoming the leader in this technology. The acquisition helped to insure the company's future. Bob realizing that he could not go any further in his career due to not having a college degree decided that he would retire at the age of 60. He was financially in the position not to have to work and he did not want to leave Bristol an old man that used to be great. Bob left when he was at the top of his game. Bob's definition of success was always. "Gain the highest position in your company that your education and experience can take you without compromising your principals while maintaining the respect of your peers". Bob satisfied he met his own definition of success retired with contentment and dignity. Bob always wanted to help others and did so by mentoring 5 people, 1 at Dow in Joliet and 4 at Bristol Babcock in Watertown CT. In the end Al would have been proud of his son, for Bob was finally exceptionally successful. Although compared to Ron, Bob's success was never what Ron achieved. However, Bob realized that Ron was unique and in the top 5 % of all business successful achievers. Bob was never jealous of his brother, loved him, and was always proud of him. Maybe if Bob had his 3 days of soul searching when he was 17 instead of 27, and went on to graduate from college, who knows what Bob might have achieved? One thing for sure, Bob did not want his daughter to have low self-esteem because of a lack of a college degree and he made sure she graduated from college. In 1998, 2 years before Bob retired, he & Debbie bought a 29 foot power boat which they christened Arianne. For the next 7 years Deb & Bob spent their summers cruising Long Island Sound and beyond. They made some great friends and cruised with them. It was great to be on the water and Connecticut was a great place to boat in. In 2005, Bob sold Arianne and built a home in Vero Beach Florida. At the time of this writing, Bob and Deb spend their time between their summer home in Connecticut and their winter home in Vero Beach.

At this writing Bob still enjoys writing plays and music, designing websites, and traveling to his winter home in Vero Beach. However Bob & Debbie's greatest joy is spending time with their daughter and their grandchildren and they feel blessed that they have them close by.

Borelli Beliefs and Traits:

They believe In Catholicism and in eternal life after death.

They believe they were put on earth to serve others not to be served by others.

They believe that where they have successful experience, they need to mentor others.

They believe in helping others build confidence and disdain selfishness.

They believe when doing a job, to do more than the job requires.

They believe in judging people by their character in the same way whether they sit on a corporate board or sweep a factory floor.

They believe in fairness and will gladly give the benefit of doubt to someone who makes a better educated argument.

They believe in tolerance for those that are trying to learn but have no tolerance for those who refuse to learn.

They believe if you pick a career, to be the best at that career or find another career that you can be the best.

They believe confidence comes from character and success comes from never compromising your principals.

They believe that you never stop learning and will change their opinion if proven wrong.

They believe in taking risk only by making rationalized decisions and deal with the consequences of a failure in a calm and logical manner.

They believe that because they behave in a Christian manner, they are underestimated by non-Christian behaved people and when the Borelli Christian tolerance runs its course. The Borelli(s) will go on the attack. They believe in fidelity in marriage, providing a descent household income, putting family ahead of personal pleasures, never engaging in a scandalous behavior, service to your country and your community, attending religious service on a regular basis, helping others that are less fortunate, keeping doors open to family and friends, and being there when a friend needs them.

Borelli Photos Below:



Frank about 50



John about 65



Al about 52



Ralph about 22



Bob at 63 Ron at 67

Ron's Achievements: [Ron Borelli Legacy Scholarship Community Colleges of New Hampshire.](#)

Ron Borelli Class Room Dartmouth College Tuck School of Business



Dartmouth College,
Tuck School of Business,
Raether Hall
Ronald Borelli Classroom
capacity: 68 people