

The '100 Great Icons'

SINGER SEWING MACHINE - A STITCH IN TIME

IF NOT FOR TWENTY-YEAR STRUGGLE OF AN UNEMPLOYED MACHINIST, MR SINGER'S BRAND MAY NEVER HAVE BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME.

In 1837 Elias Howe, a Machinist in Boston, was forced into unemployment due to chronic ill health. Watching his young wife toil for hours over the sewing, which she took in to make ends meet, gave him startling inspiration.

Determined to lift his family out of poverty, Howe borrowed money and set about inventing a workable sewing machine. Utilizing two lots of thread and operated by hand, the machine's needle pierced through fabric creating a loop. A shuttle underneath the slipped another piece of thread through the loop, creating a very sturdy lockstitch.

In 1845 Howe organised a public display of his invention. He pitted his machine, which was capable of 250. After stitched minute, against five of Boston's fates seamstresses. After he had finished five seams, the quick-fingered ladies had failed to complete even one. Howe patented his machine in 1846, but it failed to sell impressive numbers.

Howe travelled to England, hoping to find a market, but he lacked the business acumen required to sell his machine. He returned home penniless several years later, only to find that Americans had discovered sewing machines in his absence.

A major player in the industry was Isaac Singer, apart time actor, mechanic and inventor, who'd patented a sewing machine in 1851 that was similar to Howe's in every way expect for the needle movement and foot treadle. Outgoing and brash, Singer also possessed what Howe lacked- marketing flair.

Funded by a mortgage on his father's farm, Howe began a Series of legal battles against the infringers of his patent. In 1854 his case was upheld and I.M Singer & Company was ordered to pay hi, US\$15,000 in royalties. Proceedings continued against other manufacturers until 1856, when the key figures came to an agreement, paying Howe a five- dollar royalty on every machine sold in American and one dollar from each sold overseas. Singer was now able to expand, and by 1867 Howe had earned over US\$2 million dollars in royalties. But years of struggle had taken their toll, and that very same year the 48-years-old Howe also expired.

FAST FACTS:

1790: Englishman Thomas Saint patents the first complete sewing machine. It is not known whether he ever built a prototype.

1830: Frenchman Barthelemy Thimonnier patents the first workable sewing machine. In 1841 his factory is burnt to the ground by a mob of angry tailors, who feel their livelihood is threatened by new machine. Thimonnier dies bankrupt in 1857.

1834: American Walter Hunt (also inventor of the safety pin) develops a lockstitch machine but fails to patent it, fearing backlash from the tailoring industry.

1856: I.M. Singer & Co. devises the hire-purchase plan, in order to bring their product within reach of every American family.

1978: the first computer-controlled sewing machine, the Touchtronic 2001, is introduced by Singer.

2001: Singer celebrates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

From Chris Sheedy & Jenny Bond

"The RULES of LIFE"

Find a new Rule every day – or occasionally at least

So, that's about it – 99 Rules for a successful and fulfilled life. Phew. But don't think it's over yet. There is no time to sit still. There are no tea breaks for Rules Players. As soon as you think you've got it sussed, you'll fall flat on your face. You have to keep moving forwards. You have to be inventive, creative, imaginative, resourceful, and original. This final Rule has to be to keep thinking up new rules, not to stand still, to carry on developing this theme, adding to, improving on, evolving and growing and changing these Rules. These provide a jumping-off point. They're not a revelation, more a reminder. These are a starting point for you to pick up a run with.

I've tried to avoid the pedestrian (Time is a great healer) and the humorous (Never tip anyone who isn't looking) and the impractical (Love everyone), the plain daft (Turn the other cheek – you get hit twice, way better to run I say), the wibbly (Everyone's a rainbow), the obviously wrong (There are no victims) and the very, very difficult (Spend 35 years in a cave and you'll find the secret of the universe – and get a wet bottom). I've also avoided the trite (It'll be alright on the night - my experience is it never is, and the unpleasant (Don't get mad, get even).

I hope you will follow a similar plan when you formulate new Rules for yourself. I guess the main thing is that you need to continually formulate your own Rules. When you learn something – from observation or just an illuminating moment – then absorb the lesson and see if there's a Rule there for future use.

Try to find a new Rule every day – or at least occasionally. And I am quite genuine about wanting to know what you come up with – if you want to share them. Being a Rules player is a lot of fun and quite fascinating to try and spot other players. Whatever you do though, don't go telling everyone about it. Keep it secret, keep it safe – but you can tell me: richard.templar@richardtemplar.co.uk

Being a Rules Player required dedication, hard work, perseverance, keenness, ambition, enthusiasm, devotion and sheer doggedness. Keep at it and you will live a fulfilled, happy and productive life. But go easy on yourself, we all fail from time to time and no one is perfect – I'm most certainly not. Enjoy and have fun and be good.

From Richard Templar

'Snippets'

Let's hear it for the Irish. Almost a Sinner. A married Irishman went into the confessional and said to his priest, 'I almost had an affair with another woman.' The priest said, 'What do you mean, almost?' The Irishman said, 'Well, we got undressed and touched each other, but then I stopped and didn't do it.' The priest said, 'Touching each other is the same as doing it. You're not to see that woman again. For your penance, say five Hail Mary's and put \$50 in the poor box.' The Irishman left the confessional, said his prayers, and then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment and then started to leave. The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him saying, 'I saw that. You didn't put any money in the poor box!' The Irishman replied, 'Yeah, but I touched the \$50 on the poor box, and according to you, that's the same as doing it!' **Catholic Dog.** Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, 'Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?' Father Patrick replied, 'I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.' Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?' Father Patrick exclaimed, 'Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?' **Donation** Father O'Malley answers the phone. 'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?' 'It is!' 'This is the IRS. Can you help us?' 'I can!' 'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?' 'I do!' 'Is he a member of your congregation?' 'He is!' 'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?' 'He will.'

FROM THE EDITOR

December and we are probably all wondering where 2018 went to exactly? It was just here a minute ago. Where's it gone? It doesn't matter. It's gone. Well nearly.

As the weather heats up and people make their Christmas plans, we can already feel the crowd thin out as the earlier departures we will not see till perhaps mid January.

A great end of year function is always the Melbourne Cup and you can see all the 'happy folk' in the social pages some winners, some not, but all having a good time.

Remembrance Day was 11th November and it is always an emotional time to reflect and respect. NZ Ambassador Poole held a function at the Embassy and that is also in the social pages.

Other functions have taken place but maybe all did not get covered this edition.

Remember we are always prepared to listen to constructive criticism and even more prepared to hear praise and compliment. Bring as much of that on as you can handle.

Like always, if you're going somewhere, safe travelling.

Till next time. Cheers! Leith Carroll

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From the "TRIVIA BOOK"

People who laugh a lot are much healthier than those who don't. Dr Lee Berk at the Loma Linda School of Public Health in California found that laughing lowers levels of stress hormones, and strengthens the immune system. Six-year-olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15 to 100 times a day.

From the "TRIVIA BOOK"

The world's tallest mountains, the Himalayas, are also the fastest growing. Their growth - about half an inch a year - is caused by the pressure exerted by two of the Earth's continental plates (the Eurasian plate and Indo-Australian plate) pushing against one another.

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