

Life, Owner's Manual

By Tim Tice, Groundwater Technician

My family and I have had a bare space on the wall of our home for quite some time that was long, tall and narrow. We could not find just the right item to fill this setting since shelving, candle holders or whatever we tried simply did not achieve our purpose. I came across a small mercantile store that I stopped in, something I very rarely do. I found a poster with only written words on it and a border that would suit our décor, so I purchased it and it now fills that peculiar space in our home. I wanted to share those written words with you. I do not know the author or the origin of the writings, but I feel as I am sure you will that the words are worth sharing. Here they are:

Think in shades of gray; act in black and white; dream in color. ♦ Don't take success too seriously; every achievement owes something to luck. ♦ Work quietly and alone to improve yourself. No one ever confessed a shortcoming to another without lying at least a little. ♦ Be different only if you really are; working hard at a show on non-conformity wastes your ingenuity and everyone else's time. ♦ Look your best everyday. It will raise your standards and lift your spirits. ♦ Leave big talk to small people. ♦ Talk mostly of positive things. Every one has complaints, but the world is still full of large wonders and small pleasures. ♦ Encourage other people's dreams. ♦ Don't talk to children in a way intended to amuse adults nearby: you will be communicating with neither. ♦ Small compliments delivered regularly are more valuable - and more valued - than expensive gifts delivered occasionally. ♦ Go out of your way to have a friendly word for an unpopular person. ♦ Remember that any pleasure can be ruined by overindulgence, including hearing the sound of your own voice. ♦ Your success is not dependent on someone else's failure: share what you have learned. ♦ Learn to listen. It will gain you a reputation as a brilliant conversationalist. ♦ Call someone back before it is your turn. ♦ Good manners are like good grooming: once you've formed the habit, you won't notice - but everyone else will. ♦ Remember that there has never been any such thing as an over-night success. Genius without perseverance is wasted. ♦ Say "yes" more often. ♦ Politeness is difficult to maintain in a context of intimate familiarity. This is

the principal value of frequent houseguest. ♦ Beware of ridiculing other people's clothes or tastes. No quality is more fleeting than fashions. ♦ It is natural and fitting to be proud of your own accomplishments, but let someone else tell the stories. ♦ The faults we resent most are the faults we recognize most readily. ♦ Think how much there is to be learned from someone you can't stand. ♦ Don't ask what name a man gives to his god; ask what tolerance he offers his fellow man. ♦ Make your own rules, but live by your heart in a softened manner.

There it is, words that have been read many times by yours truly, and I am still enamored at the impact and thought they create. The best that life has to offer! Mr. OpTIMist.