

Techshock

Caution: Future Under Repair

by

Dick Morley

compiled by Ken Ball



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67 Alexander Drive
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Foreword

Dick Morley is widely recognized for his expertise in advanced manufacturing technologies. He is an entrepreneur and angel investor for startup companies. He has consulted for a number of major companies plus various governmental agencies, and Chairman of the Board for the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS) until April 2009.

In mid-1996 at the request of the Canadian publication *Manufacturing Automation*, Dick began a series of articles — 64 in all — which were published over the period of September 1996 through April 2008. This is his second series of articles converted into a book and is indicative of his willingness to share knowledge. He gives freely of his time to students and young persons entering the workforce.

The articles cover a broad swath of industrial topics and often relate to his travels and visits. Four were authored by others: an interview by Meg Mathur; a Dick Morley profile by one of the Morley's many foster kids; and guest-written pieces by colleagues Gregg Ekberg and Jim Pinto.

This book is an easy read with its informative and highly entertaining text. The articles have been segmented into nine general parts rather than chapters since the groupings do not have the degree of topic continuity usually found in book chapters. An index and a listing of acronyms and abbreviations are included.

A major benefit of this book is the exposure to Dick Morley: his views, interpretations and philosophies dealing with various technologies, manufacturing and business practices, and life in general. Being with Dick or reading his articles provides unique insights and non-conformist analyses — in effect, mental expansions that may well carry over into one's future.

Ken Ball

Acknowledgements and Dedication

This book is a compilation of sixty-four articles written for the Canadian publication *Manufacturing Automation*. Thanks go to MA editors — initially Heather Angus and then Alison Dunn and Mary Del Ciano — for their encouragement and fine editing services. (Readers may note some Canadian spellings.) Beyond editing our rough copy, their staff also provided necessary layout and graphic services. Their publishing efforts were well done and are greatly appreciated. These articles cover the future of technology with humor.

Recognition is due for some of the more special articles. Meg Mathur was the opening article interviewer and got the series off to a good start. We included an article extracted from Patricia Moody's and my book, *The Technology Machine*. Close friends and colleagues Gregg Ekberg and Jim Pinto provided guest columns for the series. Jim Pinto, founder and ex-CEO of Action Instruments, is truly an expert in the technology and business aspects of industrial automation. I highly recommend his regular website newsletter at www.JimPinto.com.

Also, I'm grateful to Matt Cerbone (one of our foster kids) for expressing his insider views of me and our Barn operations. Matt is among a number of foster kids who stay in touch. Over the years, we have provided a home for thirty or so kids from dysfunctional families. Wife Shirley has borne the brunt of this responsibility, along with raising three of our own. She provides sustaining support for the entire spectra of our barn and home operations. As mentioned in the previous book, *Out of the Barn*, marrying Shirley was the smartest thing I ever did. Family support includes our biological daughter, Pat Letourneau.

Last but far from least, the direct labor team consisted of my office administrator Deb Morrison; our ISA publishing liaison, Susan Colwell; and my long time associate, Ken Ball. Deb is the manager of and a key player on our Barn team. She keeps all our projects on track and on schedule. Susan Colwell has been most helpful with her fine liaison, guidance and patience. Ken has done the daily digging in reviewing and arranging the articles into an array of topics and the overall book format. Thanks also to Cyon Research for permission to use the photo on the back cover. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Morley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

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