

Collection of Thoughts
by Delegate Albert C. Pollard, Jr.
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Rule #1 of writing a book. Never get your children to review it.

This is the conclusion I came to after finishing *Outsider Looking In*, a collection of essays --consolidated and polished -- that I have written over the past 10 years.

My six year old daughter's reaction? "Booooooooooring."

My four year old son said, "It needs more pictures.

And, a few days after having looked at it, I was trying to cajole my eight year old daughter into doing something and she reminded me, "But, dad, you said in your book that arguing is a good thing."

The title comes from the fact that, the longer I have been in office, the more I feel like an oyster at low tide. That is, the more I am around the capitol I feel that much of what we do in elected office makes little sense compared to the way we would run a business, church or non-profit.

I wrote the book by digging up and printing the more than 400 columns I have written...I then skimmed off the best 100 or so, organized them, rearranged them, tossed some out, rearranged them some more and then tossed some more out – it was more time consuming than I had imagined. But the end product is, hopefully, a collection of quirky and informative essays on everything from cat felony laws, life jackets and the Public Trust Doctrine.

The final product has 5 chapters with approximately fifteen essays each. The chapters are arranged as follows: 1) Public Trust and the Case for Not Always Doing What is Popular, 2) On Partisanship, 3) Really? 4) Government Can Work and, finally, 5) A Wonderful Life, A Wonderful Country.

I have tried to make sure that *Outsider Looking In* is not one of those books that is a collection of essays on single issue, "instant gratification" policies. Instead, this book is a collection of essays on a way of thinking that doesn't always trust government but knows it can be a positive force. Indeed, I arranged it so the first chapter specifically starts with a writing meant to provoke the reader into disagreeing with me – with the hope that a broader message will be absorbed.

And, yes, it needs more pictures.

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