

Remembering Marion Wade

These loving tributes to Marion Wade were gathered from friends and family.

We hope that you will read and enjoy them!

TRIBUTE TO MARION WADE

It is a great honor for me to put on paper a few reflections on a man whose memory has left a lasting impression upon me. I was fortunate to know Marion up close and personal in the early days of Servicemaster where I served as an officer and director. Marion was the genuine article and to know him was to love him. He was a solid citizen and a devoted Christian businessman which was a rare commodity in those days. Marion was not backward about being forward when it came to his faith and it can be truly said that he "walked the talk".

There is no question the very early investors in Servicemaster (long before it became a public company) provided the seed money, or as Marion would say, "bet the egg money" based upon the honesty and integrity of the company as personified by Marion. Whatever Marion said you could take to the bank.

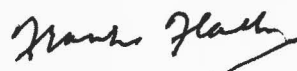
Marion, although small in stature, was a giant of a man and left a large impression on Servicemaster and the people who served that organization. He was its heart and soul and imbedded his Christian principles into the very roots of the organization. He enriched the lives of those he touched. All who followed after owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

On a personal note many of my fondest memories, and some of the most enjoyable memories, was spent on the golf course with Marion at Brookwood Country Club in the suburbs of Chicago. Typically, I would come into Chicago on a Friday evening after a two or three week road trip dog tired. The phone would ring and Marion's cheerful voice would say, "How about some golf in the morning?" You have no idea the restorative powers of Marion's personality on a young aspiring executive. Many may not realize that Marion was a natural athlete as his early days in semi pro baseball will attest. He had a natural batting eye. Golf and Marion were made for each other.

Marion made friends wherever he went. Whether it was the waitress at Marshall Fields or the locker steward at the golf club they all knew Marion and he knew them by name. Marion had the happy faculty of making you feel good in his presence. You enjoyed being in his company, literally and figuratively. That goes for his life partner, Lil, as well. They made a great couple and a model for all of us to follow.

Much will be made today of Marion's deep interest in C. S. Lewis and his books. I can tell you from firsthand experience that Marion, as an avid reader, read everything of Lewis that came to his attention and referred frequently to his writings, particularly in his public speaking engagements. This library is a fitting memorial not only to the authors, and to the scholars who will use this facility professionally, but to the man whose name will be forever linked to this edifice. Marion was an over-achiever and a real testimony of what God can do with one who was totally committed to Him. I salute this worthy endeavor to perpetuate Marion's memory and legacy.

Frank Flack, Phoenix, Arizona, September 8, 2001



March 21, 2001

It is impossible to recall Marion Wade without a pleasant expression on his face. The love of Jesus effortlessly shown through his countenance and it made him a comfortable man to be around. He understood the radical nature of Christianity lived out and it enabled him to communicate meaningfully with people from all walks of life. He loved and in turn was loved. He did not seek fortune or recognition and in return His Lord readily gave it to him knowing it would rest comfortably on his shoulders; and that he would be a faithful steward of any resources entrusted to him. As a Christian businessman he was a role model whose legacy lives on today. But he would have been the first to give all the honor and credit to Jesus.

Stewart J. Stambaugh

People may ask, what did a great Christian writer from England like C. S. Lewis have in common with an American businessman like Marion E. Wade, founder of the ServiceMaster Co. The answer of course is their commitment to and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Marion exhibited confidence, inner peace, joy and humility that comes from knowing the Lord. He showed genuine interest and concern for the people he knew and with those he came in contact. He could be serious when the situation required it, but also he is remembered for his great sense of humor. I loved Marion. He did live his life according to his beliefs.

May this Wade Center continue to help and inspire people to grow even stronger in their own faith as they research and study the works of these great Christian writers.

Soli Deo Gloria

Gloria Stambaugh

June 18, 2001

**My dear friend Marion E. Wade,
the man who made my future brighter**

One of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences of my life happened during the summer of 1953 when I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Wade and his wife Lillian. I was living on Prince Edward Island (a small island on the East Coast of Canada). Mr. and Mrs. Wade motored all the way from Chicago to share with me his long term plan for ServiceMaster. He presented me with an opportunity to become part of his dream. He told me if I provided the man he would provide the future. I joined his company in the fall of 1953. I had the privilege of working in his organization in Chicago for several months before returning to Toronto to expand ServiceMaster into the Canadian market.

It was thrilling to see Mr. Wade's dream become a reality. He talked at length about his corporate objectives, which told me a lot about Mr. Wade as a businessman. He wanted to see God honoured in the marketplace. A major part of his plan was to provide people with the opportunity to own their own businesses and grow them profitably. God helped Mr. Wade accomplish his vision through his faith in Him and people. Most men think about establishing a future for themselves; Mr. Wade dreamt about building an opportunity where many people could own their own businesses while honouring God in the marketplace.

ServiceMaster allowed me to live out Mr. Wade's dream of business ownership. ServiceMaster was not merely a job or even a prosperous investment; it was a way of life for my family for almost fifty years. I have traveled extensively throughout Canada and the United States. I continually hear people talk about the uniqueness of ServiceMaster. People who know us as owners, employees or clients recognize the difference between ServiceMaster and other large corporations. They are seeing, although they probably do not realize it, a mirroring of the great vision of Mr. Wade.

I will always be thankful that God allowed me to know Mr. Wade and his family personally. He had a tremendous impact on so many people's lives. I am thankful he lived to see his ServiceMaster dream become a reality and I was fortunate to be a part of it from the beginning.



Thane MacNeill



Marion E. Wade

Would you believe so much could come out of someone so small in stature? The better you know him the larger he became a factor in your life.

Marion E. Wade was the founder of ServiceMaster; the company I went to work for in 1953. When I first met him he appeared to be interested in his employees, kind, considerate, and rather laid back. Then pow!! His presentations at training meetings would have you laugh, then cry. He had your complete attention. Meeting in the hall he would ask, "How about lunch today?"

Marion was always involved in the business. He would ask questions to get your input. He always said, "If you don't live it, you don't believe it". Marion was a believer and a solid Christian. He lived his faith.



His example of a living life had impact on everyone. How he influenced us reflected on how we treated others. He developed us to want to honor God in all we did.

Marion was a visionary. He would say "some day we will be able to travel the country and have lunch with a different Servicemaster operator each day". We caught that vision and the business grew. We always felt secure. Marion first taught us the value of prayer. We opened our meetings with prayer, and if word came out that someone was in need, we would offer prayer. We were nurtured to establish a value system that would impact, corporate and personal lives. Marion taught us not to fear with quips like: "Don't worry, if business goes bad, we will put the show on the road"; "The greatest

security, you have it in yourself"; "The greatest competitor you have is yourself".

I think of Marion often. That is how much he influenced my life. I have an original work of art hanging in my living room given to me by Lil and Marion. As I look at that picture of the Matterhorn, I have visions of the lofty thoughts Marion held before us.

Marion loved Joshua 1:8-9

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Has not I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord will be with you whenever you go.

Thanks be to God for M.E.W.

Gal Flang

MEMORIES OF MR. WADE

Mr. Wade has been a part of my life since 1959. His picture hangs on my office wall with his coined phrase "IF YOU DON'T LIVE IT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT". Even though Mr. Wade passed away in 1973, his life was and still is a blessing and inspiration in my life. My feelings about this man is expressed quite beautifully in Elizabeth Browning's poem "How do I Love thee, let me count the ways. I love thee to the height and depth my soul can reach, by these lost saints."

I do love this man. For the life he lived, for the things that he believed in, for his sense of humor, for his great love of people, for his positive attitude, for his eagerness to help people, for his ability to create opportunity, for his competitive nature, for his love of teaching and the memories go on and on.

We of the vast ServiceMaster world-wide family who knew him personally are very lucky and blessed. So many people pass through life and never meet a man or woman who could influence their life in the past, present and future. No, Mr. Wade couldn't walk on water but he was a man of integrity, had great Christian faith and truly lived what he believed.

Mr. Wade was not a big man physically, but I once heard Paul Harvey describe this lovable man as "The Elongated Shadow of this Diminutive Man." Mr. Wade was truly a Giant in this business and to those whose lives he touched.



Park Blubaugh

MARION WADE, AS I KNEW HIM

I met Marion Wade and his wife Lil, several years before I joined ServiceMaster.

I was in Los Angeles helping to open a new 800-room hotel for the Fred Harvey Company for which I worked. Marion and Lil were returning from a trip to Hawaii with my wife's sister and husband and they called me to make a reservation for a one-night layover in Los Angeles. When they arrived I met Marion Wade for the first and only time.

In 1970 I joined ServiceMaster as a franchise owner and distributor in San Francisco, California and began to appreciate the influence this man had on a company he had "committed entirely to the Lord". In 1975 I sold my business and joined the corporate team in the Franchise Division. It was then that I became aware of the vision Marion had for his company. That vision included offering men and women an opportunity to be in business for themselves as independent owners. He also had the dream of driving from one end of the country to the other and eating a meal with a franchise owner and his family every day along the way. In the early 1990s, four of us, in the Franchise Division, decided to celebrate Marion's dream by starting at four separate locations, traveling across the entire country from Canada, Florida, New York and California, stopping along the way to visit with franchise owners. What a thrill that was.

During my 25 years of service at ServiceMaster, Barb and I were privileged to entertain the new franchise owners in our home for dinner on the first day of their attending the Academy of Service from 1979 - 1994. It was a wonderful opportunity to share with them Mr. Wade's vision and let them know that their presence at the Academy was proof that God was still answering his prayer when he prayed "send my way the *people* I will need to do the job". It was also a thrill to hear how many made the decision to join ServiceMaster because of the Corporate Objectives of the Company.

Although I didn't get to know Marion on a personal basis, I have been privileged to have a small part in seeing his dream fulfilled.



Robert H. De Jong, Vice President retired
ServiceMaster Residential & Commercial Services

The year was 1946 and I had just been discharged from the Army Air Corps. I was looking for a job and my best friend was working for Mr. Wade. He explained the business he was in and it sounded very interesting, so I asked him to get me an interview.

The next evening we met in Mr. Wade's basement and had a wonderful talk. He made me feel completely at ease and impressed me with his down to earth attitude, his integrity and vision.

That evening I decided he was the type of man I wanted to associate with and work with.

My long career with ServiceMaster had begun and Mr. Wade and I continued to be close friends until the day he went to be with the Lord. I will always cherish the memories of the many golf games we had. And finally you can't talk about Mr. Wade without mentioning his sense of humor. He was a fun guy and I miss him.

Chuck Hodgin



May 15. 2001

TO: Mary Wade

FROM: Bob St. Pierre

Thanks for the opportunity to express my feelings about your father, Mr. Marion Wade. My days at ServiceMaster started on North Wayne Avenue in Chicago in 1959.

Mr. Wade still holds the top spot in my memory as the man that I respected most in my lifetime. His warm friendship during my years with ServiceMaster were very meaningful to me. He never passed my office without stopping in to visit. His sharing of company stock when ServiceMaster went public was the most generous act anyone has ever extended to me.

His constant reminder to his co-workers was very simple: "If you don't live it, you don't believe it". He believed it and he lived it.

His perseverance during the early days of Wade, Wenger & Associates were an inspiration to everyone.

Marion E. Wade: A man of humility who achieved the highest form of success.

Robert St. Pierre
PO Box 2005
Pinehurst, NC 29370
910-295-3722

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob St. Pierre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and "S".

Remembering Marion Wade

We became interested in ServiceMaster in 1962 and as we read Marion Wade's book "The Lord is My Counsel", we knew this was the kind of company and man we wanted to be associated with. In July 1963, we made the move from banking/teaching and became a ServiceMaster franchise and never looked back.

Bobbie and I first met Marion Wade in January 1964 at a ServiceMaster conference in New Orleans, L.A. The theme of the meeting was "Open the door Richard"—which we certainly needed to do—lots of doors!

Mr. Wade spoke to us at the meeting and along with his humor he gave us some good sound advice such as—"When you have got to get up—get up and get going". He told us of the baseball pitcher who said he was the most important man on the team because he pitched the ball and the catcher said you aren't if I don't throw the ball back to you! Teamwork!

Bobbie and I became a Master Franchise Coordinator—(M.F.C.) in 1965 and got to know Mr. Wade on a more personal level. We loved his humor; his lessons learned in the "college of hard knocks" and his solid Christian beliefs.

We had high regards for Mr. Wade and always believed in his sincerity and integrity. We know that all of the other M.F.C.'s had high regards for Mr. Wade and loved him for the good man he was. We knew he lived what he believed.

As you go through life you meet that rare individual who can inspire you, challenge you and make you want to be all you can be. Marion Wade was that kind of man!

Sincerely,



Richard S. West



Bobbie J. West

E. F. MORGAN
1861 Kandahar Court, Wheaton, Illinois 60187-1414

Sept 8, 2001

Dear Mary;

This occasion focuses my memory back many years.

The moment I met your Dad was certainly not auspicious — BUT!
It became so as each year passed.

I know how great his life influenced me. We were friends.

Friend is a glorious word because it encompasses kindness, warm feelings, compassion, personality and in its most personal way, love. I really loved Marion.

He was kind to me as a new inexperienced young salesman; he was a warm senior executive, he gave me an insight into myself that has allowed me to grow, as a salesman, an executive, and as a man, husband, father and Christian friend.

Marion Wade changed my life!

Every aspect of me became more relevant as he would deliver a speech or talk to me in personal terms. Sure we laughed together, but we cried together too.

There were moments of triumph that I'll never forget. The moments of sorrow were diminished because of Marion's mature insight into the future.

What happened to me, my wife (Sally), and our children was prophesied by Marion when he prayed to his Lord for our family.

His direction for us was to commit our lives to serving Jesus Christ. I listened and Jesus became my Lord.

Lord willing as I walk into heaven and meet Jesus Christ face to face; "He will say, "There is someone waiting to see you! Marion Wade is there under the Olive tree to welcome you!

What a legacy to leave to all who will listen.

Sincerely Ed + Sally Morgan

March 10, 2001

Dear Mary

It is indeed an honor for me to share a few of the many times I spent with your father Marion Wade. I worked with him and traveled many miles with him over the years as we visited the many Servicemaster licensees across the country. His quick wit, great sense of humor, positive attitude and love of the Ford was indeed an inspiration to me and those with whom he had contact.

Mr. Wade always had a story to tell. He loved people and they all loved him because if there was a question on a decision, he was always honest and fair. He indeed served as a role model for me during my many years as Servicemaster Technical Director and as a Servicemaster franchise owner.

He was a very special person in my life who made good things happen for me and my family. I have great love and respect for Marion E. Wade.

Bernard Cozette

MARION WADE

The reason America is great is due to the character of its founding fathers. The same holds true with ServiceMaster. Its founder was Marion E. Wade.

It was 1955 when I joined Wade Wenger & Associates at 2117 N Wane Ave, on the near north side of Chicago in the old Birk Bros Brewery Building. Marion was smart. No one was hired at the plant. The trick was to get someone to buy the dream he envisioned and accept the job offer before they saw the office. Talk about culture shock!

Was Marion a visionary? He had to see the future beyond the brewery. I would say his eyesight was 20-2000!

He came from humble beginnings and didn't have the trappings of a big executive. He preferred the entrepreneur, the guy who bet the egg money on his new ServiceMaster franchise or the individual who would trust him and invest in his fledgling company. Marion loved these people and they loved him. He had a way with people— call it being a people person or charisma. He generated trust in people immediately. He could relate to them because he knew about tough times and starting a business. He could meet a waitress in a restaurant, find out about her sick daughter and from then on was a friend the woman would come to for counsel and even money. People were naturally attracted to him.

Marion had a vision that ServiceMaster would someday make an impact in the marketplace and he wanted employees and friends who believed the dream to share in the ownership and rewards. That is why I was able to buy stock from Marion even before he went public in 1962. Other forms of stock purchase, options, plans, and profit sharing followed to give equity to the employees. Marion liked the principle of employees having a stake in the company for which they worked.

No one could write a script for Marion or at least not one he could follow. He was a terrific emcee, bordering on a stand up comic, and could ad lib and tell a joke changing the facts or delivery to fit a given situation. He held his audience in the palm of his hand with his humor so they would listen to the more serious points he was trying to make. After one particularly bad year, Marion said that this was a nine-inning game and SMI was only in the second inning even though the score was 9-0. For the shareholders who stuck around for the end of the game, they would be winners! A prophet! Marion's dream was to have ServiceMaster be a Christian witness in the marketplace and make a difference. Many times I heard him pray for an employee, a friend, or franchise. This was a different kind of company and a different kind of man.

I believe that ServiceMaster has been blessed and is successful because of its humble beginnings with a dedicated Christian man like Marion who honored God. It is not surprising then that ServiceMaster's first corporate objective is to honor God in all we do. A company dedicated to being masters of service, serving the Master has to start from the top down. As the founder, he was the role model for every leader that followed.

He often said, "If you don't live it you don't believe it."



South Hills
Church Community

"Going to heaven and taking as many people with us as we can"

October 11, 2004

I recently visited this beautiful library and read the tributes written in memory of Marion Wade. Since I have known so many of the people involved in this work, the Cordings, Kilbys, the Bechtals, and others, I feel that I want to add my written note to the tributes.

As Pastor of Wheaton Bible Church for fifteen years I came to know the Wade family well. Lillian was not only a member of the congregation and a faithful financial supporter of the ministry there, but also someone who always spoke a word of encouragement to me as Pastor.

Mary is the member of the family I have known the best. I worked most closely with Mary as the education wing of the Wheaton Bible Church was under construction. She worked with a small committee of two others in building the nearly six million dollar addition to the church.

Marion Wade knew that Wheaton Bible Church had come through some difficult years and when I became the new young pastor of the church he met with me for counsel and help. Knowing that I had never led a congregation the size of the Bible Church, he shared great administrative lessons from his years of business experience. Marion went home to be with the Lord a little more than a year after I became Pastor. I was honored to lead the Memorial Service for Mr. Wade, a service that was recorded and sent to all of the Servicemaster family around the world.

You see then that this library is not only a tribute to some of the great Christian writers of the past, but it is a tribute to Marion Wade and his family along with a great collection of Christian leaders who loved not only the great writers, but who also loved Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church.

In Christ,

Christopher A. Lyons

He also loved golf and always carried his clubs in his car. He never hit the ball far, but he was always down the middle, a chip close to the pin and a great putt. During a round he often use a gentle reminder to appreciate God's creation with the admonishment, "Take time to smell the flowers."

While he was little in stature, he was big of heart. Realize he was a semipro baseball player in the Three Eye League when players played for the love of the game and not big money. He weighed about 135 pounds and with a name like Marion, he had to be tough! Imagine a 230-pounder coming into the score, cleats flying, with this little guy blocking the plate. I am sure that his baseball experience, his moth proofing business, and the explosion that blinded him for a little time all helped to give him the grit, guts, and incentive to succeed against tough odds particularly in the depression when many others would fail.

The early days of ServiceMaster were no picnic either. I can remember years when the business was down and all of us took pay cuts—the only difference was Marion's cuts were the biggest. We learned a valuable lesson.

When Marion began incorporation as Wade, Wenger & Associates, Inc. he shared ownership with others. He started what is now a multi-billion dollar business, and international enterprise with its shares traded on the NYSE.

We all owe him a debt of gratitude. When you cash your next dividend check, be grateful to remember the man with vision who started it all—Marion E. Wade.

Don Gustafson

Tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Wade by Sharon Claud

As I think about it, it seems to me that the business of the Wade Center is passing on values—literary values, aesthetic values, intellectual values, moral values. What a fitting remembrance this is for Marion and Lillian Wade—they too, passed on values.

In 1965, Dan and I and our oldest son—who was then 6 months old—moved to Wheaton from the South. Dan had recently completed an MBA at the University of Virginia. We knew no one here—our nearest family member was my brother who was living in Rochester, Minnesota at the time. We were completely new to the area.

As I look back on that period, I realize what a lot we needed to learn—the geography of the Chicago area, the cultural differences between North and South, how to deal with harsh winter weather—we didn't even know what we didn't even know.

But Dan soon joined ServiceMaster and our lives began to be very busy. Mr. and Mrs. Wade and Mary became our friends. ServiceMaster was growing. Once a year the management group, the Delta Group, husband and wives included, traveled across country to spend a week in planning sessions. We soon knew each other well—we sometimes saw each other under trying circumstances.

We were very young but we slowly began to realize that the Wades were unusual people.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade were good travelers. Mrs. Wade was gracious under all conditions. She was an easy conversationalist and easy to get to know. She always asked about our children—remembering their names and their interests. I felt that she was interested in my concerns.

We all knew that uppermost in the thinking of ServiceMaster leaders was the desire to pass on a value system. We discussed these ideas frequently—and the Wades made themselves available for younger people. We saw how Christianity looks when it is lived.

The Wades were fun to be around. Sometimes they didn't take themselves too seriously—I remember much laughter—maybe partly occasioned by their sense of humor with each other. Lillian Wade was sometimes known to say to her husband, "Tell them the joke about...", and then she would say the punch line.

Lillian enjoyed being a hostess—ask any Delta wife involved with ServiceMaster at the time what she remembers about the Wades, and she will mention their amazing generosity in inviting people for dinner at The Chicago Golf Club Buffet or in their home.

In her home Mrs. Wade appeared to entertain large groups with ease, but I believe that she was like the proverbial duck—there was much padding behind the scenes. She believed that she offered only plain, simple meals, but they were bountiful and delicious.

These were righteous people. As their friend, you knew that they were very serious about their values—there were accepted ways to behave—character was important. There were very clear ideas of right and wrong. This morning you've heard many of their sayings—we found ourselves incorporating many in our own lives—"If you can buy it with money, it's cheap"... "If it controls you it's wrong."

Dan and I loved the Wades and they invested themselves in us at a time when we were making significant life-changing choices. I regret that at the time we did not fully understand just how important they were—I wish that we had taken the opportunity to learn more from them and to appreciate them more. All too soon they were gone.

I have learned a lesson from this—when you come across unusually fine people—be alert—treasure them.

Today we are grateful for Mary's ongoing friendship. Fortunately, we see in her many of the qualities we treasured in her parents.

Blessings on you Marion and Lillian Wade. And blessings on the new Wade Center. And blessings on you, Mary, I'm so glad that we could be a part of this day.

Dedication of the Marion E. Wade Center

Poem by Dan Claud

September 8, 2001

Soon after I began Law School
I expressed my gratitude to Mr. Wade
for the company agreeing to pay for my tuition.

He said,
"We have the easy part,
you have the hard part—
to do well at school—and at work."

This was a challenge to me.
It was also a recognition by someone I respected
that it would require significant effort to carry my load
at work,
at home,
and at school.

Mr. Wade's leadership and generous spirit
was exemplified in voicing meaningful challenges
with due recognition of the efforts being called for.

Many people were kind to me during my work and school period (1968-1972),
but no one expressly challenged me
or explicitly recognized the special effort required,
as Mr. Wade did.

At a time when I was trying to understand and relate Scripture to my life,
I asked Mr. Wade for some help in understanding
the meaning of the book of Ecclesiastes.
Mr. Wade responded by giving me the complete works of Alexander MacLaren,
expositions of the Holy Scripture.

MacLaren clearly shows that Ecclesiastes begins with wild and bitter things,
thoughts that the writer of Ecclesiastes took up in his progress from error to truth,
but he ends with:

*“Fear God
and keep his commands
for this is the whole duty of man.”*

MacLaren contrasts Ecclesiastes 1:4

*“One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh,
but the earth abideth forever.”*

With 1 John 2:17

*“And the world passeth away,
and the lust thereof,
but he that doeth the will of God
abideth forever.”*

*1 John 2:17 also characterized Mr. Wade.
He committed his life and business to doing the will of God.*

*Soon after I had finished John Marshall Law School, Mr. Wade invited
the legal department to join him for golf at the Chicago Country Club.
The legal department consisted of Don Gustafson,
who was corporate counsel and secretary, Nick Panos, and myself.*

*Mr. Wade drew me as his partner.
There was only one golf course that I had occasionally played well.*

*After the first hole I was dreading finishing the game. I was clearly
on a more difficult course than I had ever played with better golfers than I had played
with.*

*Mr. Wade patiently coached
and prodded me through the rest of the game.*

Mr. Wade was clearly a gifted leader in pushing people beyond themselves.

Encouraging one to have the confidence to pitch his own ball game.

*Mr. Wade died in 1973,
in the same hospital
at the same time that my third son was born.*

*The respect that I had for Mr. Wade,
the sorrow at his death,
and the birth of my third son at this time
helped me to overcome an addiction
that had troubled me for years.*

*I was never tempted to smoke again
after Mr. Wade's death.*

*Mr. Wade often said,
"If you don't live it,
You don't believe it."
in reference to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*I think it finally hit home that for me
this addiction was a hold out to Christ,
and the friendship, encouragement,
and example of Mr. Wade
finally helped me overcome this.*

He was clearly a leader and a brother in Christ to me.

*He helped me sort through issues of life and belief,
by his life
and by his counsel.*

It is very fitting that Mr. Wade is associated with the C. S. Lewis collection.

*Both men are a source of true light
and encouragement for many men and women.*

-- Dan Claud

My first recollection of Marion Wade came six months after I joined the company (Wade, Wenger & Associates) in 1964. Marion asked me to go to lunch with him. I was surprised because I was a new employee just a staff assistant to a regional manager and he was founder of the company and chairman at the time. But that is the way he was, powerful in his gifts and humble in his spirit. I remember getting into his new Cadillac that day, I felt around the leather upholstery, inspected the dashboard and then blurted out “gee Mr. Wade this is a really nice car”. He glanced at me and said “Oh Dick someday all you guys will be driving cars like this. You guys are going to make history”

He was a great vision caster but when he said, “you guys are going to make history” he was not talking only about growth in the company, but growth of a company built on scriptural principles. He loved the Lord and loved serving Him through his company. He felt he and all of his employees were working for the Lord. The Lord was our boss, the One we had to please.

Those who knew him would say he was a fierce competitor, but his position on competition was that within the company we were not competing against each other, but against our own score like in golf. He stressed this often. Teamwork and not caring who got the credit was one of his hot buttons. I remember coming out of a meeting one time where one of our managers had been openly criticizing another manager. I happened to meet Mr. Wade coming out of the meeting and he was visibly unhappy with the manager for the way he had publicly criticized his teammate.

In my 35 years with ServiceMaster I heard many wonderful stories from and about Marion. Following is the one I like best because it exemplifies his adherence to scripture in his everyday business decisions and responses:

In the very early days when the company was just beginning Marion had a very lucrative contract with a large carpet retailer in the city of Chicago. The retailer was selling the carpet and Marion and his employees were developing a carpet cleaning business to the same customers. The retailer would then receive a commission on all the carpet cleaning. Somehow Mr. Wade discovered that the retailer was cheating on the contractual agreement by give some of the customers

to their own newly established cleaning crews. He confronted the retailer and they admitted the deception. Mr. Wade's response was that ServiceMaster would no longer serve the retailer's customers but he would stay with them long enough for the retailer to gear up for taking on the work.

This was a Biblical response for a committed Christian to make. I was and still am impacted by that story. Marion lived his faith even when it hurt the business. In this story he was showing love to his enemies.

I never had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Wade but he was a mentor/model to me in many ways because of how he conducted himself and lived out his faith in boldness. I am a stronger Christian and businessperson for having known and watched this man of God. His heritage embodied in the ServiceMaster Company has impacted our entire family.

Dick Armstrong
Sept. 25, 2004

Poem by Joy Burr McCloskey

*The black river
Winds through the night,
Through old Indian prairie country,
Glistening by day,
Smoldering by night,
And it rolls through the time
Of a young nation's building
And it curls around the bends of the towns,
The factories, the junctions,
The long decades and the destinies
Of many unrelated tribes.*

*It carries its current
In the mold of the land,
Following the full history of the land,
Accepting the invasions of wind and sky,
True mostly to the sure, strong, unrelenting pull
Of the Lord's will
Which controlleth the river among all things.*

*The black river rolls in the rain
Echoing back the heart-tearing hoot
Of the train clickety-clacking
In the rain-filled night
Where need and loneliness
Must be matched with the passion to grow.*

*And the river takes the rain
Unto itself,
Even as it falls on the tin roof
Under which a small, wiry,
Almost anonymous boy
Dreams fitfully, and twists in his dreams,
Grows because and in spite of himself,
Not knowing
Where the river will carry him,*

*Getting ready all the same-
Most gritty, most human,
Sentient and humorous and tough
Like a river-soaked log or a baseball bat,
As he hears the message midnight
In the tattoo of the rain on his roof,
The whistle of the train
And the mysterious rhythms of the river.*

*The river was here tonight in Denver
As it has been in New Orleans, San Francisco
And in countless places,
Still rolling,
Black and fearful and not to be denied.
I have seen it many times
At such assemblies.
I have come to them,
As I come tonight, full of the straws
Of my own discontent,
Humiliated by narrow-gauging men,
Wounded by the blatant mediocrity
Of faceless clerks,
The kind who never listened
In the night to the river.
And I have thought
How pompous and pretentious
The assembly is,
Because I knew the undercurrents
Of frustration, conflict, off-target turmoil
And unresolved contradiction
Never shown on the agenda,
And because I had talked to men,
Who after almost twelve years
(For which I earn no pin)
Are my brothers,
And to success I have contributed
In my way
And for my own compensations.*

*In my meanness
And my ego-injured sulk
I know at least, and truly,
That when the time comes
For the boy under the tin roof
To conduct his dialog
With the various brilliantly ordinary men
Who wait for him
To talk with them
Then the poetry of the event
Will break the dam
Of bureaucratic stifle
And I, as a disfranchised witness,
Shall exult.*

*It came,
It comes not only
When you talk with those men
Or chuckle with their Ladies and Gentlemen
But also when they talk back to you
With the quiet thunder of
"Thank you, Mr. Wade."*

*When it comes
My heart chokes for the boy
Who listened to the rain of the river,
Wept in secret for love of his mother,
Sold his newspapers on the train,
Broke his knuckles for the team,
Was burned and broken,
Found his Lord
And stayed with the current
Long after the hoot of the train
Had faded in the night...*

*Corporate manipulations are one thing.
Agency contracts are another,
These are barren, cynical things.*

*But when you dropped the watch
And said with a quick catcher's reflexes,
"So I'm giving you the works."
Or when Park Blubaugh spoke
For his fifty-two delegates,
Thanking you,
Speaking for a dozen families,
A thousand associates, over a million
Customers and me,
Then I knew that you
Had founded a team
(Larger and longer and more permanent
Than Rockne, Lombardi, or Durocher
Had ever mounted.)*

*No matter, I thought,
What happens now, nor
When you and I are no longer active
In the format,
The river will roll
Because it is relentless and because
It has creased the soil,
Cultivated its truth,
Communed with small lonely boys.
And it is a good, strong river
Because it is His,
As are you.*

-- Burr McCloskey

*Written after attending the Annual Service Master Convention
(12:40 AM, August 31?, 1967,9?)*

 Paul Harvey News

January 20, 1976

Mr. Ken Wessner
Servicemaster Industries
2300 Warrenville Road
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Good Morning, Wes ...

Our little Men's Bible Study group has gone through the Jensen books on Jonah, James and Joshua and is starting now on Jesus. (The J's are a coincidence.)

At the conclusion of each we are asked in a hundred words to answer, "What did this book say to you?"

Because my recent response on Joshua mentions our beloved Marion, I thought you might like to see it.

Every good wish.



PH:rr

Enc.

PAUL HARVEY NEWS
360 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

In less sophisticated days I grew up in a small Tulsa, Oklahoma Church of God singing "Trust and Obey."

One day I learned to trust. Many years, many personal wars and much disobedience later, in the example of Joshua and in the life and death of a friend, the words of the old hymn burned themselves -- I hope indelibly -- into my consciousness.

I wanted Joshua to speak to me and he did.

He said "Trust and obey." As one of the most trusting, obedient and successful men -- a treasured friend -- lay dying, he had made Joshua's experience his own testament: "Trust and obey."

As recently as this study I have re-experienced the penalties when one trusts without obeying and the rewards when one does both.

From this study I have re-learned what the song of my youth and every evangelical preacher since has sought to say and as the life and death of Joshua and his modern counterpart Marion Wade proved:

"Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy . . ."

Dr. Allan C. Emery, Jr.
May 22, 2001

Ms. Mary Wade
152 Shelley Lane
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Mary,

One of the great joys in my lifetime is having known Marion Wade. He was a precious man, really precious. He had every reason to be proud of his achievement, yet through it all he remained very humble. He saw himself as a redeemed one, before God. Every conversation I ever had with him always involved our relationships to The Lord and our service in his name.

I think the happiest time I had with your dad was when he and your mother spent time here as our guests. They were treasured guests of Marian and me. We had a great time visiting the historic places in and around Boston. We traveled to Cape Cod to see its beauty and quaint New England ambience. We stayed overnight in Falmouth. Your father was very involved in everything around him. He noticed every detail; he delighted in the sailboats, the people, the pond and geese near our hotel. He paid particular attention to the children; his Christian faith was amazingly consistent. It was easy to see the loving relationship he had with The Lord.

Your dad was a true intellectual; he was deeply concerned with principles and how they should order our lives. He had some keen disappointments in life that he was able to rise above. I truly loved your dad and believe he felt the same toward me.

I often reminisce about stories your dad told ranging from beauty and good food to Christian fellowship. I also remember sharing my C.S. Lewis correspondence with him. Oh, so many lovely memories and good times. I am blessed to have had a special place in his life.

With all good wishes,

Allan C. Emery Jr.