

Topic: Family Motel Business

Abstract: My Grandfather invested in a motel when he came to the United States from India. After he retired he gave the motel to my Father who now owns it. There are many different ethnic backgrounds that stay there. When I visit the motel my favorite thing to do is talk to some of the customers that stay there. One day when my Father retires he is going to give me the motel. I hope I can make my mark on it just like my Grandfather and Father did. I hope to keep this tradition going and I want to be able to pass the motel on to my children and I hope they do the same.

Key Words: Motel, Father, Grandfather, Family Business, Family Tradition, Family, Proud, Honored, Different Ethnic Backgrounds.

Ethnic Designation: Indian

Cultural Category: Social Practice: Information Exchange

The Motel Hammy Down

Ever since I could remember, my Father has owned a motel. It wasn't a nice one but it was always in good condition because that's the way my Father liked to keep it. The motel is located on a corner street in a neighborhood with many different ethnic backgrounds in San Jose, California. Ever since I was a child, I could remember going there every day after school. The motel was like a second home to me. When I was about 8 I asked my dad how he got the motel and what his reasoning behind buying it was. My Father chuckled at me sat me down and told me the story. He told me that he didn't buy this motel, my Grandfather did, and it was given to him after my grandfather retired.

50 years ago my Grandfather moved to the United States from India because he heard there were more opportunities here than there are in India. He left my Grandmother, my Father, and my aunt all back in India. When he arrived here in California the land was cheap and opportunities were out there to take. My Grandfather's brother owned a motel in Louisiana, which gave my Grandfather the idea to open one up in San Jose. The motel was a great success because people traveling through the town stayed at my Grandfather's motel. Once my Grandfather made enough money he was able to fly my dad, aunt, and Grandmother to California to join him. All four of them lived and took care of the motel. My Father still tells me stories about the people he would meet back in the day, and how crazy they were or the stories that he was told by them. My Father called this motel home for many years of his life and he knew everything about it. He knows all the ins and outs of the place and where all the hiding spots and short cuts are. After my Grandfather retired, he gave the motel to my Father who was very happy to carry the tradition.

My Father told me that this motel was the starting point of our family and this is how we made it here in the United States. The motel was my Father's life and job; it's what put the food on the table for my family when I was younger. As I grew up I saw how important the motel was to my family, so I started growing more interested in how the business worked. I wanted to know how everything was managed and how to take over for my dad one day. To this day my Father teaches me about what goes on around the motel and what problems to always look out for. He always tells me he will teach me everything he knows but it takes time to learn.

When I go to the motel to check up on things for my dad, I usually try and talk to the people that stay there to see what those people are like. There is always different ethnic backgrounds when I go which makes me happy because I love being around diverse people. The

stories that people tell me are out of this world and make me think that some have good lives and others do not. Many of the people are unpredictable and I just never know what kind of person someone might be. Talking to people who stayed at my dad's motel was and is my favorite thing to do there. I get to learn about people who are from all around the world and it amazes me the things that they say and have been through.

When my Father retires he told me that he is going to pass down the motel to me. When he told me this a year ago, I was so happy to know that I was going to be able to carry on the same motel that my Grandfather and Father owned. I plan to keep the motel how it is, but when I'm older I would like to somewhat upgrade the place in ways to make it more modernized for the customers. I am going to leave the building how it is mostly because that's how my Grandfather had it. I want to keep the character that my Grandfather put into the place because I think that's what made it so special to my family. I also want to expand and make more motels when I am older because that is what my Father did and that's what I also want to do. My Grandfather and Father have left their marks on the motel and I want to add something of me towards the motel to continue with their tradition, this way I can contribute something to keep things going. When I am older and have a family of my own, I want to be able to pass this motel and hopefully others to my children so they too can leave their mark on our family tradition. Seeing people that are happy around the motel is what makes me happy and I want to be able to share these experiences with others around the world. I have looked up to my Father all my life and I want to become what he is because in my culture we look up to the Father figure and carry on what they have started.

As you can see, just some small piece of land has made such a big impact on my family. That land became a motel filled with love and home to my family. Who ever thought that

the motel would make such a big impact on my father yet alone myself? My grandfather has passed down all his techniques to my father and I cannot wait for the day I can follow in their footsteps. I hope to make them proud.