

Ed Nelson's Newsletter

Author of fictional novels

Home of "The Richard Jackson Saga" & Ed's new book series "Cast in Time".

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Home of the *Richard Jackson Saga*; *Ever and Always*; *Mary, Mary*; *More Mary, Mary* and the in-progress *Cast in Time* series.

Series 4, Volume 4

July 15, 2026

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The Passing of Ed Nelson

Despite families' best efforts, Ed did not survive his fall. We will keep his legacy alive by continuing the Cast in Time Series. His son Michael, also a writer, is researching and working on Book 9.

Earl "Ed" Nelson

October 11, 1944 – June 21, 2026



Earl "Ed" Nelson, a storyteller, adventurer, and devoted family man, passed away on June 21, 2026, following complications from a fall sustained at his home in February. He was 81 years old.

Ed's life began as dramatically as any of the tales he would later tell — born on October 11, 1944 in Grays, Essex, England during an air raid in World War II, to Peg and Jack Nelson. His father Jack, an American soldier, had met Peg while serving overseas, and the young family soon made their way to the United States. Ed was raised in Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he would lay down his roots and, in time, meet the love of his life, Carol.

A career in quality control took Ed far beyond Ohio's borders. He traveled extensively across the United States and around the world — to Malaysia, Singapore, Liberia, and beyond — relocating with Carol over the years to Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Florida. He eventually founded his own consulting firm, helping companies navigate ISO 9000 certification. But no matter where work took him, he brought curiosity, competence, and no shortage of good stories.

And stories were Ed's true calling. His love of spinning a tall tale blossomed into a second career as a prolific and successful author. He published 28 books, including the beloved Richard Jackson Saga series and his most recent Cast in Time series, earning a loyal following of devoted readers. True to his nature, Ed was actively working on his next book at the time of his injury — the pen never far from his hand.

When he wasn't writing, Ed could be found with a book of his own, on the golf course, or plotting his next move over a chess board. He gave generously of his time, volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America and, most recently, the Anna Marie Island Privateers — where he embraced the full pirate experience, talking the talk and riding the float in the Gasparilla Parade with characteristic enthusiasm.

Ed was predeceased by his parents, Jack and Peg Nelson, and his brother Paul. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Carol Nelson (Bowsher); his sister Janet Rupert of Columbus, Ohio; his children Tony Nelson (Beth) of Salisbury, Maryland, Karen Klima (Steve Klima) of Edwardsburg, Michigan, and Michael Nelson (Linda) of Largo, Florida; eight grandchildren, Jim, Aaron, Chris, Emily, Abigail, David, Hope, and Matthew; and five great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Isla, Emilia, Maxwell, and Soléne.

Ed Nelson lived a life that spanned continents, careers, and countless chapters — both on the page and off. He will be deeply missed.

Chapter 4, from *The Beginning, The Richard Jackson Saga*

(In the previous chapter, Rick has foiled a bank robbery and learns he has earned serious reward money.)

It was a short few minutes because Mr. Easterly walked into the room just then.

“I hear there is a young man who needs a place to stay.”

Mr. Weber introduced us. I told him I would be pleased to have a room as I got tired of sleeping outside. I was willing to pay for it, but he would have none of that. In short order, he had me in his pickup and headed out to his ranch.

I met his wife, Sally, who treated me like a long-lost son. I had a bath before dinner and put on my only pair of clean clothes. At dinner, I mentioned that I had to find a laundromat in town. She laughed and asked if I had looked in a mirror recently.

Of course, I hadn't. It appeared that I was now six feet and one-half inches tall. My pants and shirt sleeves were both too short. I needed all new clothes! Fortunately, I now had the money.

The next day Mr. and Mrs. Easterly took me into town. Our first stop was the local newspaper. They wanted my description of what happened during the robbery.

The newspaperman, Jimmy Olsen, chuckled when he first introduced himself, telling me he wasn't a photographer.

I laughed and said, “You must be asked about Superman a lot.”

“You have no idea, but I have learned to live with it.”

The laugh we shared got us off to a good start, but I still felt overwhelmed by the sheer number of his questions.

He asked me so many questions that I felt more intimidated by him than the FBI.

Mr. Easterly let me fend for myself during the interview but later told me I did okay. Not much praise, but I thought that an “Okay” from him was a lot. He also promised to mail a copy of the article to my parents.

The next stop was at a newly opened Sheplers. They specialized in Western gear, so I ended up with cowboy boots, several pairs of jeans, cowboy-style shirts, a belt with a large brass buckle, and a straw cowboy hat.

Ignoring that I had only ever ridden on a fairground pony when I was young, I was a rough-riding cowboy.

I mentioned that to Clint, and he told me he had the cure. I thought he was going to put me on a horse, not one of the Brahma bulls he raised and provided to the rodeo.

He gave me the basics and lifted me on the back of one. I’m sure he thought I would go flying. I was as surprised as he was when I stayed on.

It seems I had the natural reflexes and balance required. Mr. Easterly gave me some pointers on showing off on the ride by waving my arms and hat during the eight-second ride. All of which I did without any problem.

After riding two more bulls that morning, he said he had never seen such a natural.

He taught me how to saddle, ride, and care for a horse. It all came easy and was fun. Except for the half dozen times the bulls and horses threw me off.

Three days later word came from the FBI that I wasn't needed anymore and could move on.

Clint asked if I wanted to join him as a helper on the rodeo circuit. I would also be a wrangler on several other projects. I learned that wrangler was just the fancy word for helper and dung shoveler. Those bulls needed a lot of wrangling!

Since he was headed towards California, it made sense. He was giving me a ride and paying me. The pay was for spit, but since he helped me, I would have done it for free. Our first stop was outside Denver to provide the riding bulls for a rodeo. The rodeo was a lot bigger than I thought it would be.

I assumed it would be like our local Logan County Fair. It was more like the Ohio State Fair. He had talked me into joining the American National Bull Riding Association Junior Division so I could enter the events.

I thought it would be neat to tell my friends in school about entering. It was more than neat when I won the Junior Division at the rodeo.

The prize was one hundred dollars, and they gave me the neatest big silver buckle for my belt, a trophy, and a blue ribbon with the rodeo name and date on it.

We boxed the trophy and ribbons up and shipped them to my parents. They would be surprised!

We then headed up to a rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming. And wouldn't you know it, I won first place and another one hundred dollars.

I packed the trophy, mailed it, then headed down to Fort Collins, Colorado for the third rodeo. It was almost anti-climactic when I won that one, but their first prize was two hundred dollars.

I now had more money than I had ever dreamed of. I started talking about becoming a professional rodeo rider. Clint told me not to get too big for my britches.

I had enough points in the Junior Circuit to enter the Grand National Junior in Dallas at the end of August. Again, he helped me with the forms but let me know that I would now be going against the real riders and had to step up my game.

Heck, I was happy to hang on. How could I step that up?

We went out to a dude ranch in Nevada near Reno. They were filming *Adventures of Spin and Marty*, a show which was part of the *Mickey Mouse Club*. There was to be a segment about rodeos, and we were providing the bulls.

When the child actor who was supposed to be the bull rider refused to get on one, Clint pointed out that I rode and even won some rodeo contests. They had me join the Screen Actors Guild and made me an extra.

It turned out to be a little more because the writers heard Annette say I was cute. That gave them the idea to have me in several episodes.

I won the rodeo in the first episode, and Annette swooned over me, much to Spin and Marty's dismay. I made headway with her the next one, and they got more frustrated.

In the third one, the writers had me overstepping my bounds and trying to kiss Annette (Gasp!). Spin and Marty catch me in the act and toss me in a horse trough. And that was the end of my Disney career.

I didn't get a chance to know any of the actors. As soon as a scene was finished, they would disappear into their trailers with their chaperones, ending my boyhood fantasy.

The scenes were shot out of sequence, so my work was done in two days. They wouldn't let me keep the black hat they had put on me.

Translations Available

Cast in Time series book 1 through 8 has been translated into French, German, Dutch, Italian, Castilian Spanish, and Latin American Spanish. They are available or soon will be available as eBooks on their respective Amazon websites as well as on Amazon.com. The Richard Jackson series will be slowly rolled out in those languages.

They have new covers, too!





In the *Cast in Time* series an engineer finds himself in an alternate reality, Cornwall, in the year 715 A.D. He awakens in the body of a young baron.

Retired Lieutenant General James Fletcher, former head of the Army Corp of Engineers, lies dying at the age of ninety-two. Having led a full life, he is a decorated veteran of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam.

His love of engineering has him taking university courses his entire life. When his health falters, and he can no longer continue his education, MIT awards him an honorary Ph.D. in Professional Studenting. After a long illness, he lies dying. His last thought is, “What a waste of such wonderful knowledge.”

As he fades to black, the fun begins. He is to build a modern civilization without being burned as a witch!



The Richard Jackson Saga

Bank robbery, bull riding in the rodeo, a western movie, and rustlers, among other events, occur as young Rick is on a cross-country trip, hitchhiking from a small Ohio town to California. This alternate history is of what should have been rather than what has been.

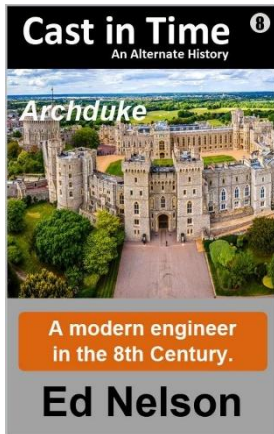
With wit and humor and no teenage angst, we follow a young man's coming of age in the late 1950s. Starting in the summer before his freshman year, it follows him through his high school life, where he learns golf is his game. He finds fame and fortune as an inventor and wealth in Hollywood as he searches for a girlfriend. Wealth and fame prove far easier than girls.

The songs, movies, and books of the 1950s and 60s are nostalgic to some. The action and adventure thrill others. All readers enjoy the realistic flow of life, give or take a lie or two, in the 16-book series of *The Richard Jackson Saga*.

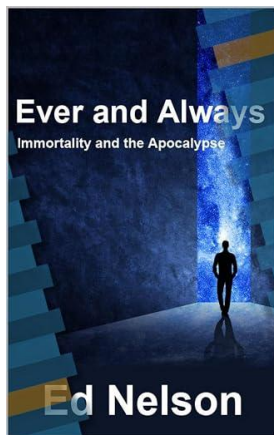
Follow Rick from the excitement of his summer to the dullness of high school life while he proves that school isn't always dull.

Cast in Time, Book 8

It's here! [Book 8, Cast in Time: Archduke](#) is available on Kindle and in paperback and hardback at Amazon.



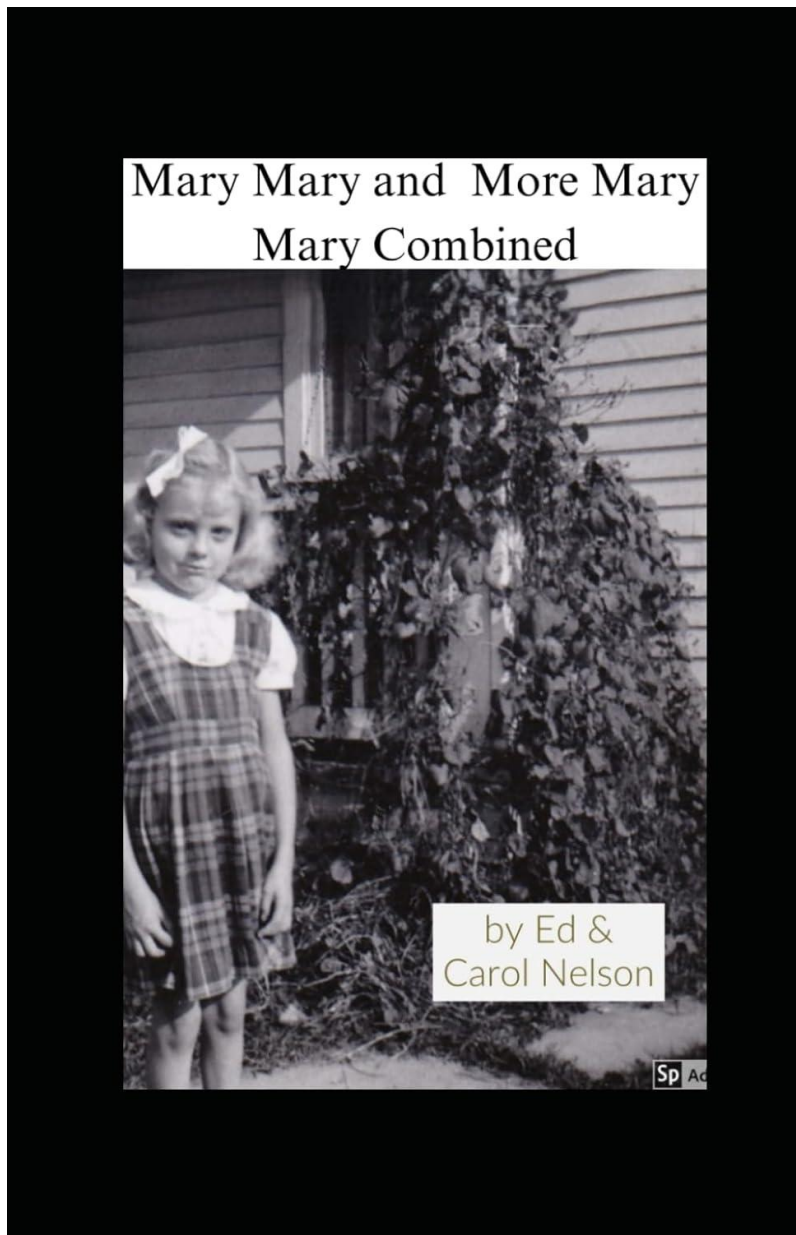
Now James is adding eastern Europe and what would become Russia to his territories. He continues inventing and providing information to improve the lives of all his people. His granddaughter wants to imitate Amelia Earhart's journey around the planet, hopefully without the disappearing and dying part. Then there is major detective work to try to solve a bank robbery. Join the journey with this wild ride through the eighth century.



Ever and Always: Immortality and the Apocalypse

Rick King, a Viet Nam veteran is lost in the final stages of Alzheimers in a moderate long term care home, when something strange happens. He awakens in a long-term care facility for the indigent. As Rick regains his strength and fights for his stolen life and wealth, elegant Marsha Wren in the exact same situation, joins Rick as they struggle to get their lives back, while they avoid the danger of ending up in a government laboratory. While regaining their strength and independence they are also growing younger in health and appearance. They have no idea how young they will end up or how long they will live, are they immortal? One thing they know is that if they live long enough the world and the United States will change. How or when they have no way of knowing, just that change will occur. They position themselves as best as they can, fighting a survivalist group, when as predicted the apocalypse occurs. They will live, but can civilization survive?

Mary Mary and More Mary Mary combined



- You asked for it! Two books, *Mary Mary* and *More Mary Mary* have been combined so that a paperback and hard cover book can be printed. There is no new material added.

Mary Mary is a short story, 10,000 words. Mary Jackson, younger sister of Richard Jackson, has her own growing pains in her five-year-old world. Mary has been described as five going on thirty-five. Follow Mary as she weathers the perils of kindergarten while making her mark on the world and earning the beginning of her own fortune. *Mary Mary*, how does your garden grow.

In *More Mary Mary* there are twenty-five Mary short stories in this collection.

Follow her growth during The Richard Jackson Saga. We see her develop from a precocious child to a young genius. From cheating at monopoly to calling Professor Einstein names to his face she is fun all the way. Her view of the world is different from most: don't all little girls carry a dagger and solve differential equations in their head? Be prepared for a wild ride in cuteness, deadliness and inventions beyond your wildest dreams.