

Foreword

When Bill Milliken sent me his book with the title *Equations of Motion* I hesitated for a few days to open it, fearing to be faced with a rather dry and complex treatise on physics and mathematics. Already in the first few chapters it became apparent to me however, why Bill had chosen the title: He has spent a good part of his life in motion – as an accomplished and passionate ballroom dancer! And that is not the only surprise in this wonderfully entertaining book which spans over nine decades of Bill's fascinating career and life to which I have the great honor to contribute this foreword.

Sometimes in life you meet a person and for unknown reasons you feel an immediate connection, an inner sense tells you that you are on the same wavelength. That happened to me when I first met Bill Milliken almost 50 years ago at the US Grand Prix at Watkins Glen, New York. We were kindred spirits, we both liked aviation and motor racing, we liked to know what made machines function and we did not hesitate to go out on a limb in the pursuit of our respective goals.

Reading page after page I am happy to realize that unknowingly I have also shared a great many of his role models as well as his sense of curiosity, his sense of naughtiness and his relentless tenacity and passion. We both do not seem bothered in taking a chance of making fools of ourselves when tackling an unorthodox project.

Bill's life's journey preceded mine by 20 years starting in 1911. In the unfolding decades the world learnt about telephones, radios, automobiles, motorcycles, trains, World Wars, the Depression, television, atom bombs, the Cold War, computers, space flight, terrorism, lap tops, the Internet - a fantastically grand canvas for living and learning. Bill has done just that becoming a pioneer in many fields including aircraft stability and control and the mathematics thereof, always pushing the envelope for greater understanding. His attitude in facing every challenge and not avoiding risks has an infectious appeal that is hard to resist.

Every long life has its ups and downs and Bill has had his share. He coped with great fortitude and with his sense of humor intact, never lavishing much sympathy upon himself. He just kept swinging and acting like the Maine Yankee that he is.

Bill, it is a pleasure to know you and be called your friend. Your book will enlighten generations of young inventors and trailblazers to come.

With best wishes always,



Dan Gurney



Dan Gurney at Watkin's Glen, 1961.