ODDS

Today lets talk about odds. Simply stated , odds mean the possibility of something occurring - against the possibility of it not occurring.

In our country there are certain 'odds legislation', that is, the manipulation of some sorts of odds are illegal, namely gambling and the like. But in one spot in our country, the state of Nevada, the execution and negotiation of odds are legal. Lets take a look at how much of a chance a visitor at Las Vegas has against the odds. The people that own the gambling places figure that for every ten dollars that one of their visitors out down on the green tables, they generrally pick up only eight dollars when the cards are down or when the dice stop. Therefore the Vegas visitor is up against 6 to 4 odds...the fellow who own the cards has 60% chance of winning and the card player has only 40% chance of coming out ahead.

Now then, lets look at some odds of a different sort but none the less- still odds. Lets call these odds 'factory odds'. For these factory odds we'll use just typical factories in typical U.S. places. We probably pass them every day and we hardly notice them. These factories manufacture the things we use, they employ the people around us, pay taxes to our town and generally their existance results in a lot of good for everyone.

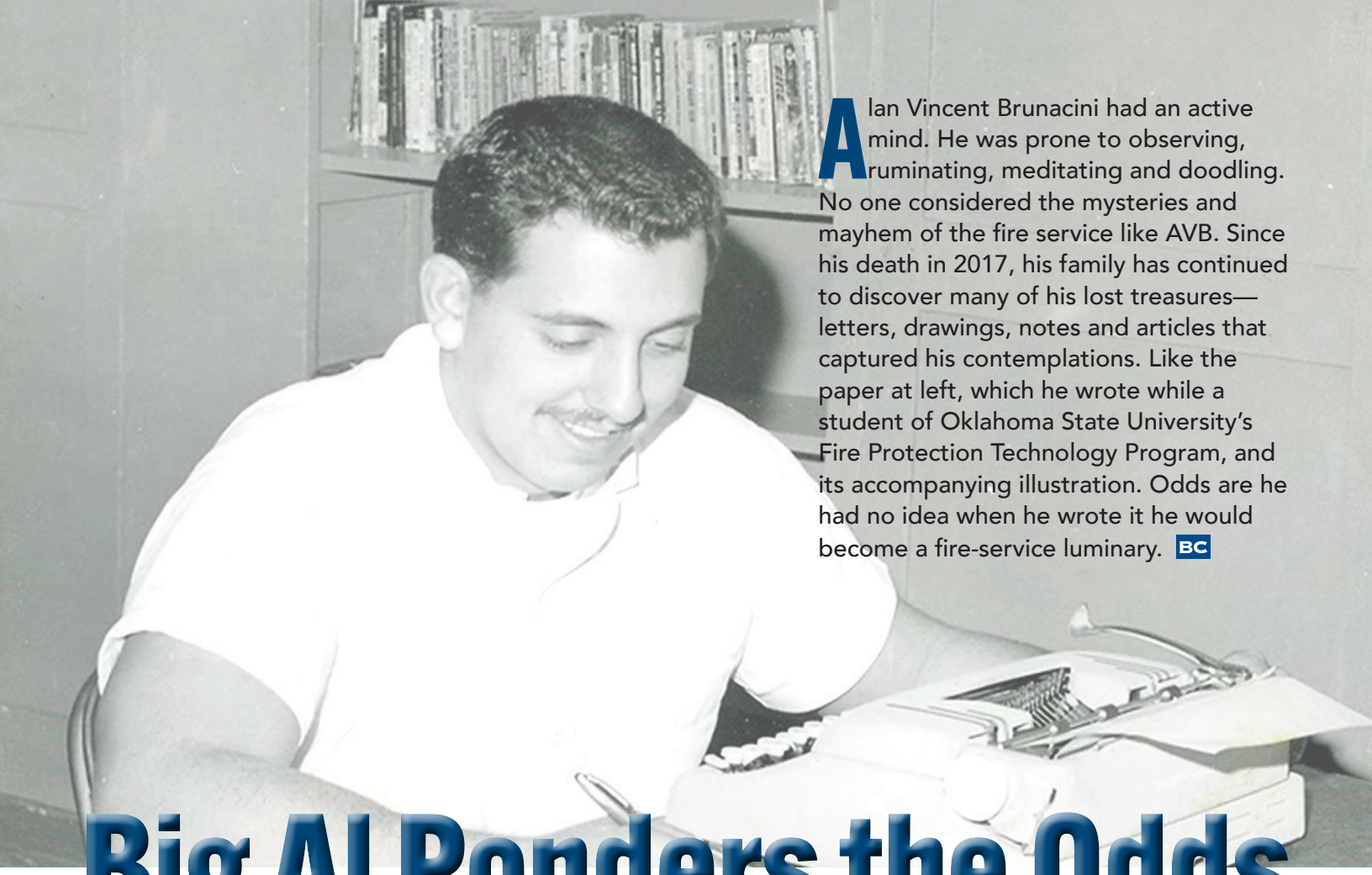
But everyday in the U. S. 100 of these factories are destroyed by fire. These fires usually are the result of the common well known industrial, man-made fire hazards.

Now we'll take a look at our "factory odds". Instead of laying ten dollars down on the Vegas tables and using cards as our odds, ,lets set ten of these burned factories down and figure the odds against them ever reopening.

The first four of these factories that burn never reopen - their operation is lost to everyone fore ver. The next three that burn down reopen but they eventually will close their doors and shut down, their operation is lost to everyone also. The remaning three that are burned do reopen and survive the fire. So, of the ten that burned only 3 make it back.

Therefore in the factory fire set up we've got 7 to 3 odds of the factories ever reopening - with the fire having the "betting odds".

It doesn't seem that Nevada is the only place where people buck the odds. Personally I'll take the Vegas set-up to the factory fire - in Vegas the odds are better and the bet is smaller



Alan Vincent Brunacini had an active mind. He was prone to observing, ruminating, meditating and doodling. No one considered the mysteries and mayhem of the fire service like AVB. Since his death in 2017, his family has continued to discover many of his lost treasures—letters, drawings, notes and articles that captured his contemplations. Like the paper at left, which he wrote while a student of Oklahoma State University's Fire Protection Technology Program, and its accompanying illustration. Odds are he had no idea when he wrote it he would become a fire-service luminary. BC

Big Al Ponders the Odds

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