

25 (Job-Related) Things About Me

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Who could resist the current fad of telling 25 people 25 things about yourself? Well so far, I have. But no more will I swim against the tide. Herewith are 25 things about me, all chosen from my one-too-many work experiences. Maybe something here will make you laugh.

1. I ran a housecleaning service for a year before admitting that I hate housecleaning.
2. Ditto for a painting and bathroom-tiling service.
3. I worked for a big corporation for less than a year. Turns out I don't like working for big corporations.
4. One reason I didn't like the corporation was the separate holiday parties for men and women. No, really. In 1982. I went to the women's party and won a prize — a dishcloth. I wish I had kept it; it would look good in a frame in my office.
5. Sometimes I miss waitressing.
6. I was fired five times before starting my current business. Maybe more, depending on your perspective. Two of the firings were for not "putting out" with a manager. Yuk.
7. In one of the firings, I was handing over my resignation as the boss was handing me a pink slip. Was that a firing?
8. Getting laid off from my favorite job broke my heart. I still miss working there.
9. I once beat out 30 applicants in the same room for a third-shift holiday job unloading trucks. The process took several hours and about 40 pages of application. It was weird to see the herd thinned until it was just me and a couple of brawny guys. Weirder yet to get the job.
10. For the same position, I used myself as a reference because I didn't have enough names. Two months after the job ended, a form letter arrived: "Dear Ms. Lindgren. Amy Lindgren has used you as an employment reference. Please complete the following questions about Amy Lindgren and return this form in the enclosed envelope." I still have the letter somewhere — it makes me laugh.
11. Because my jobs were usually part-time or short-lived, I have never had a paid sick day, vacation day, or holiday, although a bookkeeper who liked me once gave me a half-day for the Fourth of July.
12. When I delivered newspapers, I sometimes stayed up all night rather than get up early. It seemed better somehow.

13. Once when a customer claimed her newspaper was being stolen, but actually was trying not to pay for it, I stuffed it under her apartment door in sections and yelled "Paper's here" loudly enough to wake the

neighbors. It stopped being "stolen" right after that.

14. Surprisingly, it took two years to get fired from delivering newspapers.

15. I became sports information director at my college because no one else seemed interested. I earned \$3.10 an hour and did everything in 15 hours a week. We didn't have very much sports news.

16. A theater company I promoted closed because of low attendance. I still feel guilty.

17. When I worked as a stagehand, I regularly saw orchestra conductors' underwear when they changed for performances. This was not a perk.

18. At this same auditorium, the manager was often drunk and fired me several times. I always came back, and he never remembered letting me go.

19. One of my worst paying jobs was serving breakfast at a Vietnamese restaurant. No one thinks "Asian" when they think breakfast.

20. I sold barter club memberships ages ago and learned recently that my cousin worked for the same teeny company at the same time. Small world.

21. I worked as a coat-check girl during high school and learned that helping a man on with his coat instead of just handing it over would double the tip. Straightening the shoulders could land me a fiver.

22. In the same supper club, one of the managers would sometimes dance suggestively with the cigarette machine, fondling the knobs when the band played slow songs. It was an eyeful for a teenager.

23. When I worked for a company with a phone bank, I agreed to make calls one evening, not realizing it was to raise funds for a political party I didn't like. Needing income, I made the calls and raised the most money. Eek.

24. Once when I wanted an encyclopedia set, I asked the bookstore owner if I could work it off. I was very surprised when he gave me the keys to open on Saturdays. That was a fun "job."

25. I really love working, in just about any way I can. Weird, huh?

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