



**JUDI  
NEAL**

# Angels On His Shoulders

Ruby Vine Leads With  
Divine Guidance

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**R**uby Vine, founder of Railroad Salvage and an owner of a number of businesses in Connecticut and Florida, is an Edgewalker. He is someone who is attracted to what's never been done before and who feels guided by the unseen in his life. He has been extraordinarily successful in business, and he attributes this to his two angels.

How does he experience these angels? He says, "I knew that unusual things were happening to me when I should have been in accidents and it came out well. The first time this happened was during World War II, when I was in the 28th Infantry, 112th Regiment, in France. We were pursuing the Germans who were retreating to Germany.

"I was walking down the road with a buddy of mine from the regiment. We were 'the point,' and were walking half-cautiously because we hadn't seen anyone for a while. We came to a crossroad, and there were shots. My buddy fell down and said, 'I'm hit.' I tried to carry him, but he said, 'Get me a medic.' I ran back to my platoon leader and took him back to the crossroads. My buddy was dead when we got back.

"He's the one who got hit, and I didn't.

"Later in Germany we brought fuel to an armored outfit that had gotten stuck. As we got up the hill, a machine gun opened fire on us. I found a machine gun on the ground and picked it up and opened fire on them. They stopped firing, and we went back to where we came from.

“I wasn’t hurt. That’s twice. I don’t know what kept me safe. A lot of guys were killed. I didn’t give much thought to it until we were captured. The Germans came out, and we put our hands up. One of them had a bayonet and he made a lunge at me. I don’t know what made me do it, but I said something to him in Jewish, and it stopped him. I guess it surprised him.

“At that time, the Germans shot a lot of American prisoners because they had no way that they could take care of them. They lined us up on a hill, but they didn’t shoot us. We could hear them firing in the distance, and we later learned that they killed a lot of our guys.”

Ruby was in a POW camp for 2 or 3 months. He doesn’t really even know because he was so sick and delirious during that time. “For me to come out of that and be talking to you 60 years later, there had to be angels. I gave you just a few cases of where the angels were on my shoulders, and a lot of people I was with aren’t here today. I am. So that’s why I try to help people in my life, because it’s a miracle that I’m here today. There’s something there that is helping me.”

There were no jobs when Ruby got back home. “So,” he says, “I started selling things. I got a lot of help from others, a lot of breaks.”

For example, he went into a building, looking for office space. He was still in khakis, and that must have made an impression on the woman who showed him a large office where things were stored. She told him, “You can have this office if you clean it up and paint it. I’ll give it to you for \$12 a month with electricity.” Ruby seems to be thinking of his angels again and says, “To find something like that, well...”

Ruby explains one of the first business deals he made and how what seemed like a tragedy turned around at the last minute. “A friend loaned me \$300, and I spent it on plants to sell just before Easter. I got a great price on them and put the plants in my old station wagon. I had to stop somewhere and was out for while. I came back out, and — well — you know what had happened to the plants all closed up in that warm car. I thought, ‘Oh no, these plants are all wilted, and I can’t sell them now. And I just borrowed \$300 to pay for them, and I have no way to

pay it back.’ So I put the plants in the basement of a building I had just rented, not knowing what else to do with them. The next morning I came back and all the flowers were in bloom! I sold every one of them, paid my buddy back, and bought more flowers. My angels were with me.”

Eventually Ruby got into buying entire businesses and into helping other people finance their businesses. Westinghouse was selling the Blakeslee Pretress plant and offered to finance the deal but wanted \$500,000 down, which Ruby didn’t have at the time.

So how did he find the money? From CBs. “I went to the factory in California where they had 12,000 CB sets. They wanted \$38 a piece for them. These were 23-channel sets, and the new sets were more channels and the manufacturers had to get rid of them in a certain amount of time, so they were selling them at great discount. New CBs were going for \$300.

“So I sold them at a very low price through Railroad Salvage, and they went like hotcakes. Every one of them flew out of the store, and my profit was almost exactly \$500,000!”

Ruby made his fortune finding value in things that other people might see as worthless or junk. Perhaps because of his angels, Ruby sees each day of his life as a gift and as an opportunity to help others the way he’s been helped.

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**Judi Neal** is Executive Director of The Association for Spirit at Work, a membership organization that supports personal and organizational transformation through coaching, education, research, speaking, and publications. She is the author of a forthcoming book titled *Beyond Profit and Prophets: Creating Inspired People, Teams, And Organizations*. She can be reached at [judi@spiritatwork.com](mailto:judi@spiritatwork.com). BH SmartDocs™ are published by BrownHerron Publishing and are sold exclusively on Amazon.com ([www.amazon.com/brownherron](http://www.amazon.com/brownherron)).

