

# Charles Kuralt

## Quotes

*Country, People, Thinking, Years, Literature, Stories, Writing, Running, Father,  
Kids, Trying, Important, Rivers, Book, Baseball, Jobs, Hate, Looks, Light,  
Believe*

The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.

~Charles Kuralt

It was cold out there, bitter, biting, cutting, piercing, hyperborean, marmoreal cold, and there were all these Minnesotans running around outdoors, happy as lambs in the spring.

~Charles Kuralt

When we become a really mature, grown-up, wise society, we will put teachers at the center of the community, where they belong. We don't honor them enough, we don't pay them enough.

~Charles Kuralt

Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students.

~Charles Kuralt

The everyday kindness of the back roads more than makes up for the acts of greed in the headlines.

~Charles Kuralt

...Pomeranians speak only to Poodles and Poodles speak only to God.

~Charles Kuralt

There are a lot of people who are doing wonderful things, quietly, with no motive of greed, or hostility toward other people, or delusions of superiority.

~Charles Kuralt

It does no harm just once in a while to acknowledge that the whole country isn't in flames, that there are people in the country besides politicians, entertainers, and criminals.

~Charles Kuralt

The sparrows are preparing for winter, each one dressed in a plain brown coat and singing a cheerful song.

~Charles Kuralt

Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel across the country from coast to coast without seeing anything.

~Charles Kuralt

I had a tight stomach all the time. I actually developed ulcers. I've learned better than to put all that internal pressure on myself.

~Charles Kuralt

I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers.

~Charles Kuralt

What I learned on the road. Above all else - to love my native land.

~Charles Kuralt

It is liberalism, whether people like it or not, which has animated all the years of my life. What on Earth did conservatism ever accomplish for our country?

~Charles Kuralt

Rivers run through our history and folklore, and link us as a people.... We are a nation rich in rivers.

~Charles Kuralt

I didn't like the competitiveness of big-time journalism.

~Charles Kuralt

I used to think that driving, sleepless, ambitious labor was what you needed to succeed.

~Charles Kuralt

We always take credit for the good and attribute the bad to fortune.

~Charles Kuralt

If there are bleachers in heaven and a warm sun, that's where you'll find Bill Veeck.

~Charles Kuralt

You can find your way across this country using burger joints the way a navigator uses stars.

~Charles Kuralt

I could tell you which writer's rhythms I am imitating. It's not exactly plagiarism, it's falling in love with good language and trying to imitate it.

~Charles Kuralt

The first books I was interested in were all about baseball. But I can't think of one single book that changed my life in any way.

~Charles Kuralt

I can't remember a time when I didn't want to be a reporter. I don't know where I got the idea that it was a romantic calling.

~Charles Kuralt

I did stories about unexpected encounters, back roads, small towns and ordinary folk, sometimes doing something a little extraordinary.

~Charles Kuralt

It takes an earthquake to remind us that we walk on the crust of an unfinished planet.

~Charles Kuralt

A country so rich that it can send people to the moon still has hundreds of thousands of its citizens who can't read. That's terribly troubling to me.

~Charles Kuralt

It was so much fun to have the freedom to wander America, with no assignments. For 25 or 30 years I never had an assignment. These were all stories I wanted to do myself.

~Charles Kuralt

The reality of any place is what its people remember of it.

~Charles Kuralt

Kids are always asked, What are you going to be when you grow up? I needed an answer. So instead of saying, a fireman, or a policeman, I said, a reporter.

~Charles Kuralt

I think all those people I did stories about measured their own success by the joy their work was giving them.

~Charles Kuralt

I suppose I was a little bit of what would be called today a nerd. I didn't have girlfriends, and really I wasn't a very social boy.

~Charles Kuralt

Since my retirement, I've spent a lot of time trying to help the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina. A society like this just can't afford an uneducated underclass of citizens.

~Charles Kuralt

When I was a little boy I used to borrow my father's hat, and make a press card to stick in the hat band. That was the way reporters were always portrayed in the movies.

~Charles Kuralt

I believe that writing is derivative. I think good writing comes from good

reading.

~Charles Kuralt

When I worked in Los Angeles covering hard news, very often when something important would happen I'd be off in the woods covering something unimportant, which was more interesting to me.

~Charles Kuralt

I much preferred the peaceful life on the road, where I didn't have to ask embarrassing questions and do all the things real reporters have to do.

~Charles Kuralt

It's that enthusiasm, that passion for what you're doing, that is most important.

~Charles Kuralt

Look for joy in your life; it's not always easy to find.

~Charles Kuralt

I remember being in the public library and my jaw just aching as I looked around at all those books I wanted to read. There just wasn't time enough to read everything I wanted to read.

~Charles Kuralt

America is a great story and there is a river on every page of it.

~Charles Kuralt

My mother, at least twice, cancelled our family's subscription to the newspaper I was working on, because she was so mad about its treatment of my father.

~Charles Kuralt

I didn't know what narcissism was until I beheld my own naricssus.

~Charles Kuralt

I don't think I had a reputation as a hard worker, but inside I was always being eaten up by the pressures.

~Charles Kuralt

I don't think one should ever come to my stage of life and have to look back and say, Gosh. I wish I hadn't spent all those years doing that job I was never really interested in.

~Charles Kuralt

What you need for breakfast, they say in East Tennessee, is a jug of good corn liquor, a thick steak and a hound dog. Then you feed the steak to the dog.

~Charles Kuralt

There is melancholy in the wind and sorrow in the grass

~Charles Kuralt

I would love to write something that people would still read 50 or 100 years from now. That comes with growing older, I think.

~Charles Kuralt

I think I'd have done better if I had been a little more relaxed-if I had not pressed quite so hard, if I'd not lost quite so much sleep.

~Charles Kuralt

I'm not any kind of social reformer.

~Charles Kuralt

That was the overwhelming thing to me, the joy of carrying my portable typewriter to an event and trying to describe it.

~Charles Kuralt

New York is the true City of Light in any season.

~Charles Kuralt

I can't say that I've changed anybody's life, ever, and that's the real work of the world, if you want a better society.

~Charles Kuralt

I wasn't a very discriminating reader. I read just about everything that came along.

~Charles Kuralt

Just by luck, I picked good heroes to worship.

~Charles Kuralt

In television, everything is gone with the speed of light, literally. It is no field for anybody with intimations of immortality.

~Charles Kuralt

I was on the high school track team, believe it or not, and played baseball, poorly but passionately.

~Charles Kuralt

I'm not knocking the wholesale grocery business or any other, but there is a kind of romance in journalism which some people, the lucky ones, feel inside them all their lives.

~Charles Kuralt

You never heard anybody ask 'Elvis who?'

~Charles Kuralt

I don't know what makes a good feature story. I've always assumed that if it was a story that interested or amused me, that it would have the same impact on other people.

~Charles Kuralt



I didn't have the ambition to be a broadcaster. I was going to be a newspaper reporter the rest of my life, but that opportunity came along.

~Charles Kuralt

I think the feature reporter often walks a very thin line between a truly human story and one that slops over into mushiness or sentimentality.

~Charles Kuralt

I made friends with a lot of those who could have criticized me in print and who didn't, who praised me instead.

~Charles Kuralt

A true Southerner will never say in 2-3 words what can better be said in 10-12.

~Charles Kuralt

My parents encouraged me in everything I ever wanted to do.

~Charles Kuralt

You know, most reporters can't go back to the towns they wrote stories about. I never wrote that kind of story.

~Charles Kuralt

I don't have any well-developed philosophy about journalism. Ultimately it is important in a society like this, so people can know about everything that goes wrong.

~Charles Kuralt

I had a little insight into life that most kids probably didn't have. My mother was a schoolteacher, and my father was a social worker. Through his eyes I saw the underside of society.

~Charles Kuralt

It's best to leap into something you know you love. You might change

your mind later, but that is the privilege of youth.

~Charles Kuralt

Now that I look back on it, having retired from being a reporter, it was kind of romantic. It was a wonderful way to live one's life, just as I imagined it would be when I was 6 or 7.

~Charles Kuralt

TV critics, who traditionally hate television and make their living writing about it, often didn't like what I did on the air.

~Charles Kuralt

There is such a thing as a national conscience, and it can be touched.

~Charles Kuralt

I would like to explore some side roads in life while I am still in good health and good spirits.

~Charles Kuralt

And still I wander, seeking compensation in unforeseen encounters and unexpected sights, in sunsets, storms and passing fancies.

~Charles Kuralt

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