

Personal Portrait

House @ 702 WEST ST.

What is the date and place of your birth?

Aug 10, 1935 MANTONVILLE MN
IN OUR HOUSE

What is your full given name?

DAN IRVIN ERDMAN - I WENT
TO DON I. (ONLY) IN MY THIRTIES -
BIRTH CERT. SHOWS ONLY DON ERDMAN
Who selected your name?

PARENTS

Why were you given this name?

WHO KNOWS - I HADEN'T A
CLUE

Do you have a nickname or did you have one as a child?

How did you get it?

ERDIE OR LITTLE ERDIE
OR DONNIE

MY DAD WENT BY ERDIE
→ BECAUSE OF MY DAD AND
MY REAL NAME

What is your mother's full name and the date and place of her birth?

Ellen Ruth Erdman -
June 1, 1908 - Ripley Township
Dodge County, Minn.

What is your father's full name and date and place of his birth?

(Louis, Frederick)
Irvin L. Erdman - March 25,
1910. Born Wysock, Minn.,
ON A FARM OUTSIDE OF TOWN

What are the names of your siblings and the dates and places of their birth?

I'm the only one - I
heard once that I had a
sister - BUT there is NO TRACE
OF HER ANYWHERE. - IT'S SAD
AND BAD when you don't
HAVE A BROTHER OR SISTER,
THIS GETS WORSE AS you
GET OLDER.

Personal Portrait

What are the names of your maternal grandparents;
the dates and places of their birth?

EMILE ERDMAN

I DO NOT KNOW THE DATE
OR PLACE OF BIRTH

ALVIRA ERDMAN

SAME AS ABOVE

NOBODY THATS LEFT KNOWS
EITHER

MAY BE ALYCE MIGHT KNOW

What are the names of your paternal grandparents;
the dates and places of their birth?

JOHN BUENNAND

ELIZABETH BUENNAND (EDMOND)

I DO NOT KNOW THE PLACE
OR DATES OF BIRTH.

MAY BE ALYCE MIGHT KNOW

What is your wife's full given name and the date and place of her birth?

JEAN MARLENE Reynolds - OCT 8,
1936 - ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL Rochester
MN - DO NOT CALL HER MARLENE
SHE HATES IT

What are the names of your children and the dates and places of their birth?

PAMELA JEAN Erdman JULY 1, 1955
AT MAYO (ST MARYS)

PAUL DON ENDMAN - JAN 18, 1957
AT MAYO (ST MARYS)

PETER DANIEL Erdman - APR 4, 1961
AT MAYO (ST MARYS)

ALL OF THEM ARE GOOD ONES

Personal Portrait

What is your favorite way to spend your free time?

Singing in The church choir -
Reading my Bible - Spending time
with our family - Fishing -
Camping - going for a ride

Do you have a favorite sport? Why does it appeal to you?

Fishing - The peace and quite
of being on or next to
the water - Jesus spent
a lot of time on or by
the water - it's good for
the soul and the fish
are good to eat.

Do you have a favorite team?

Vikings Football Team
Midget Hockey and Football
Teams

What is your favorite vacation spot? Why?

BRANSON, MO & THE OZARK
MOUNTAINS - THE FLORIDA
KEYS

WHY? THE BEAUTIFUL AREA
AND THE WEATHER AND THE
KEYS HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL
COLORED WATER

What meal do you most enjoy?

BAKED SPAM WITH BROWN SAUCE
AND MAC AND CHEESE -
BOILED FISH AND BOILED POTATOES
AND BEST OF ALL "WHITE FISH"

Do you have a favorite song? Why is it so special to you?

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS - HOW
GREAT THOU ART - SWEET
LOVE - CRY - SKYLINE -
AND HUNDREDS MORE - IT'S
SUCH A HAPPY DAY - I LOVE
TO TELL THE STORY OF JESUS AND
HIS GLORY
(MOM & MY SONG) "YOU BELONG TO
ME"

Personal Portrait

What are your current and past favorite television shows?

TONIGHT SHOW WITH JONNY
CARSON - LAWRENCE WALK -
BONANZA - ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW -
IT'S 2013 AND THERE AREN'T
ANY CURRENT SHOWS WORTH
LOOKING AT. WAY BACK WAS
A SHOW CALLED "GUNSMOKE"

Is there a movie you have watched again and again?

Why is it so special to you?

SOUTH PACIFIC - GREAT RACE
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS -
GRUMPY OLD MAN - GRUMPY
OLD MEN - MASH - SHARPEST
GUN IN THE WEST - SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF - SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL GUN FIGHTER -
IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD
WHITE CHRISTMAS AND
MANY MORE BUT THESE ARE
THE MAIN ONES

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy most?

Being with Family

Being with Friends

FISHING - EITHER ON THE WATER

OR BANK FISHING

GOING FOR A SHORT RIDE

GOING TO BRANSON MO. AND

FISH

GOING TO CHURCH EACH WEEK

GOING TO THE STATE FAIR

GOING UP NORTH AND TO THE

MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY

Personal Portrait

What kinds of social gatherings do you enjoy most?

NONE - EXCEPT FOR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS

SOME PLAYS ARE O.K.

BIBLE STUDY AT Church.

I'm NOT GOOD AT JOINING
VARIOUS GROUPS

WE WERE IN COUPLES CLUB
AT Church

What are your special gifts or talents?

How have you used them throughout your life?

GOD GAVE ME THE TALENT
TO BUILD THINGS AND TO
REPAIR ALL KINDS OF THINGS
AND TO FIGURE THINGS
OUT THAT TO SOME ARE
COMPLICATED - I CAN FIGURE
IT OUT IN MY HEAD WITHOUT
HAVING TO PUT IT ON PAPER.
I HAVE USED THESE ALL
MY LIFE. THAT'S WHY MAYO
HIRED ME TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO MAKE SPECIAL
EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR A CERTAIN
RESEARCH PROJECT.

Personal Portrait

What is one of your best characteristics?

I DON'T THINK I HAVE
ANY - BUT I MIGHT BE A
TYPE "A" PERSON "SOMETIMES"
I AM GOOD AT TAKING A
BREATH AND BLOWING IT
OUT - THEN EVERYTHING IS
OK AGAIN

Is there a characteristic you wish you could
change about yourself?

YES - BEING A TYPE "A"
PERSON

YES - I LOVE HIGH-SPEED IN
CARS AND ON BOATS

Describe a typical day in your life right now.

WORK PLAY
 PLAY OR WORK
 EAT EAT
 REST REST

I enjoy every DAY GOD
 gives me.

THE BEST DAY IS FISHING -
 I ALSO READ A LITTLE -

I READ MY BIBLE EVERY DAY -

I'M 79 YEARS OLD WHEN I
 WROTE THIS. SPENDING TIME
 WITH "LAKES", (YOUR MOTHER)
 AND MY FAMILY

Childhood

Describe the neighborhood you grew up in.

IN CHATFIELD, MINN. - SMALL (1200) TOWN EVERYONE KNEW EVERYONE - THERE WERE VERY FEW RULES - YOU COULD ICE SKATE IN WINTER SOMETIMES ON THE STREETS AND IN SUMMER ROLLER SKATE, RIDE BIKES, ON PLAY BALL. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TRAFFIC - PEOPLE HELPED EACH OTHER WITH CHORES - WE RAKED THE LEAVES INTO THE STREET AND BURNED THEM - IT SMELLED REALLY NICE. I WALKED OR RODE MY BIKE EVERYWHERE - EVEN UP TO SANDTOWN. I FISHED IN THE ROOT RIVER. A COUPLE OF TIMES I RODE MY BIKE OUT TO "BUCKSNORT" DAM TO FISH (IT'S A LONG RIDE)

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Describe your childhood home.

MANTONVILLE ONE - I DON'T REMEMBER
MUCH, JUST DADS DOGS. AT 3 YRS ^{OLD} MOVED
TO HOUSE (NEXT TO CATHOLIC CHURCH)
IN WHITFIELD; THAT HOUSE WAS COLD
IN WINTER. IN 1941 MOVED TO NEW
HOUSE (NOW RIVER ST). BIG YARD - NOT
A VERY BIG HOUSE. HAD A BIG WORKSHOP
AND SUMMER SHOWER IN THE BASEMENT.
I LIKED THAT HOUSE & ITS LOCATION.
I LIVED THERE TILL I WENT IN THE
 Describe your childhood bedroom. AIR FORCE

Did you share it with anyone? NO

SMALL BUT IT HAD A BED, FLOOR
LAMP, CHAIR, SOME DRAWERS, A
CLOSET AND A DESK TO DO
MY SCHOOL WORK ON. I
HAD A SMALL FAN FOR THE
SUMMER HEAT. I HAD
A WALK IN CLOSET

WE DID RENT OUT A ROOM UPSTAIRS
TO A TEACHER, AFTER DAD DIED.

Childhood

What was your favorite room in this home?

What made it special?

LIVING ROOM - WE HAD A
FLOOR MODEL RADIO AND
RECORD PLAYER FOR 78'S
RECORDS - RADIO ALSO HAD
SHORT WAVE. I LISTENED TO
WCCO, KROC AND SOME SOUTH
AMERICAN STATIONS AS WELL
AS RECORDS (78's)

What were your chores and responsibilities?

AFTER DAD DIED - MOW LAWN -
SHOVEL SNOW - TRIM BUSHES - WASH
CLOTHES - CLEAN MY ROOM AND
BASEMENT + GARAGE - PAY BILLS -
WASH DISHES - MAKE SOME OF
MY MEALS - FEED + TAKE OF MY DOG
- WASH CAR, WORK IN THE GARDEN

Did you get an allowance? How much was it?

NO - BUT IF I NEEDED (B19)
SOMETHING AND MY MOTHER
THOUGHT IT WAS REASONABLE
SHE BOUGHT IT FOR ME

Did you spend more of your free time indoors or outdoors?

When I wasn't doing house
chores I was outside - summer
and winter - fishing, hunting,
sports of all kinds

What indoor activity did you enjoy most?

Building my 1st boat
I was 12 yrs old. I did
this in the basement.
Had a heck of a time
getting it out - it took
seven kids to hold me.

What was your favorite outdoor activity?

Fishing - riding bike and
playing sports and later
riding my scooter and
motorcycle and driving the
old model "A" (1929)

Childhood

Did you have any special interests or talents as a child?

Did you take lessons of any kind? YES

NO TALENTS - I LOVED TO SKIP
SCHOOL AND GO FISHING ON THE
ROOT RIVER AND MILL CREEK.
I PLAYED FRENCH HORN IN THE
BAND - TOOK PIANO LESSONS - DIDN'T
WORK OUT - I DID SING IN
THE CHURCH KIDS CHOIR. I
SANG IN THE SCHOOL CHOIR AND
PLAYED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND.

Was there something you always wanted to try and
never got the chance?

TO DRIVE AN INDY "500"
OFFENHOFER POWERED RACE
CAR AT 200+ MPH AT INDY
TRACK.

ALSO TO DRIVE AND RUN
A "CAT" MOTOR GRADER.

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Do you remember any favorite toys?

MY DUAL ELECTRIC TRAIN
IT WAS UP STAIRS IN THE
HOUSE, AND I LIKED TO SHOOT
POOL.

Did you enjoy reading as a boy?

If so, what did you read? Did you have a favorite book or story?

NO - I READ VERY SLOW AND
COULD NOT REMEMBER WHAT
I READ. AND WHEN I READ I
FALL ASLEEP.

Did you ever have a hideaway, clubhouse, or other special place that was "yours"? Describe this place.

NO - I DID HAVE A WWII
POP TENT I SET UP IN THE
BACK YARD TO SLEEP IN
SOME NIGHTS. THIS WAS
A ONE HALF TENT.

Childhood

What was an especially fun outing for you as a child?

GOING ON BOY SCOUT
OUTINGS - CAMPING - WITH MY
FRIENDS - FISHING - PUTTING
UP HAY AT MANNINGS
FARM.

I ONLY MADE 1ST CLASS SCOUT
BUT TROOP WAS A ON AGAIN
OFF AGAIN UNIT

Which friends from your childhood do you most remember?

What did you and your friends do for fun?

RODNEY HERRICK, TOBY MATTERN,
DON MANNING, KERMIT MCRAE,
JOHN HALLAMIN, GENE WHEELER,
JACK HESBY, MARTIN WALCH, ROD
WALCH, JERRY MYROM, RILEY
HIERMANN, BOB SCATT, + MANY MORE
SPORTS - BAND - BIKE RIDING -
JUST IN GENERAL HAVING
AROUND - FISHING - TRYING TO
STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

Were you part of a club, troop, or other organization?

What do you remember about your group?

BOY SCOUTS - ICAHARACH
 Choir - High School
 Band I PLAYED French
 Horn - High School
 Choir (MIKED) - SIDE BAN -
 BOY SCOUTS WENT ONCE A MONTH
 AT COFFMAN SCHOOL BUILDING IN
 ROCHESTER - ON BOYS ONLY NIGHT
 WE SAWM IN OUR BIRTHDAY SUITS

Did you attend religious services as a young boy?

What are your memories of this experience?

YES - EVERY SUNDAY
 - VERY GOOD MEMORIES -
 SUNDAY SCHOOL TOO - I
 HAD SOME CLOSE FRIENDS
 AT CHURCH AND ONE OF
 THEM, BUTCH SCHORDEN, GOT
 KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT

WE ONLY HAD WOOL SUITS AND
 THE WOOL FIBER ALLEGED UP THE
 FILTERS

Childhood

What childhood experiences do you feel shaped you the most?

my Chores - IT SHOWED
ME YOU HAVE TO WORK
SO YOU CAN EAT & LIVE.

Singing IN THE Church's
KIDS CHOIR. IT MADE
ME WANT TO BE IN
Church A LOT.

IT WAS REALLY NICE
LIVING IN A SMALL
TOWN IN THE HILL COUNTRY

What from your childhood are you most thankful for?

My Mother - She was
very hard at times, but she
and the good Lord tried
to keep me on the right
path. She was also very
good to me. - I do not
know how my dad
handled me, I do not
remember much about
him.

More Thoughts

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Page 24 "Neighborhood" on
hot Summer nights Otto
Holets would sit on the front
step of his house, across the
street, and play the accordion
for a couple of hours -
in the fall all of us kids
would help him Butcher
his chickens and then dean
them - about 80-100 of them,
it took all weekend

Page 29 "Hideaway"
a one-half pup tent in WWII
was that the army guys would
each carry so it was not
so heavy and then when
they needed another guy would
bring his half and they snipped
together to make a tent. But
I only had one half but I
used it any way.

More Thoughts

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Page 31 "Religious Services"

our 1st Church, in 1940's, had a big wood burner stove for heat, in the back of the church, so all of us kids sat in back around the stove, the front was so cold. The pastor wore a winter coat and gloves so did all the people up front.

Page 73 one of my 29's I

Traded a bike for the car - all 3 "A's" were 2 door sedans, very basic cars. But my 1931 4 dr chev. was 1st class - velour covered seats, 2 ~~top~~ jump seats in the back along with a full back seat, also had window shades in the back seat area, with foiled on them, and a covered luggage rack on the back of the car - very decked out for a auto of its day.

More Thoughts

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Page 15 - "Favorite Songs"
Love Christie's "Beyond the
Blue Horizon"

Page 16 "TV Shows"
all the old 60's + 70's and
even some in the 80's.
McHale's navy, mash, Friends
Decker of Hazzard, Hart to
Hart, there were a lot of
them.

More Thoughts (Page) 15
Page 188 "Inspiration"

There are not in order -
Just Thoughts - we had a
head on car crash on
one our trips to the East -
made a mess of our Van - and
when I was still in High School
a guy tried to help me, took
me fishing once in while and
then asked me if wanted to help
him build a boat, I said yes
but so we started the project
in his basement and before
we knew it we were done.
The guys name was Stan
Dressler and she came down -
Stars one day ask us how
were we going to get out
of the basement. We did
not think out that and
this boat took up half of their
basement, she was not happy.
That's when I stayed away from
their house. Stan dug out
the front yard, blocked up the
floor and knocked out the
Cement blocks, removed the
boat and put all back together.
That was the end of hanging
out with Stan.

More Thoughts (Page 2)

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"Can't" and I.

When Mom had one our dates, when she was 15 and me 16, we were at "Frans roller skating rink" (a tent) on the old county fair grounds. He set it up in the summer and it was a very large tent with rolled up sides and bench seats all way around the sides and I had not ever skated on a hard floor like that before and your mother and she skated very well, well I tried to turn a corner I did not make it and fell down and under the bench seat and out onto the grass and there I layed. not a good thing to impress a date. Every one laughed, I got up and we stopped skating and left.

one summer evening some of my friends and I were riding around Chatfield and one of them said "hey Eric" I wonder how fast we could make

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"Can't"

it to Rochester? I was driving my mother's 1950 Olds - so I ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't} know until we try it, so off we went. Made it in 11 mins, in those days some of the road was in a different place than it is now, when we ^{went} over the railroad tracks at Fredmore, nobody saw it but there was a train starting to cross the at the Highway crossing, when we got back to Chatfield there ^{was} a black mark on the edge of the rear bumper where the train's cow catcher had touched the bumper. The Lord was looking after me again.

How I learned to swim - 3 of my friends threw me into a 15 ft. Hole in Root River, in west Chatfield, and told me to swim or sink. That's it. I learned to swim.

US Air Force Service

enlist July 1953 (Korea)

Basic Training July to Oct 1953
San Ant. TX

Radar School Oct to Dec 1953
Kessler AFB B. Miss.

756th AC&W Sqdn Jan 1954 to
Finland, Minn. Aug 1955

808th AC&W Sqdn Aug 1955 to
Rochester, Minn. June 1957

31st Air Div Headquarters St. Paul
Minn. June 1957 to July 1957

Released from active duty on
July 1957

Reserves July 1957 to July 1961
Denver, Colo

Discharged July 1961

P.T.O.

Air Force Jobs I
held for 4 years

Radar operator

Plotting Board writer

movement and identification
tech.

Company clerk.

Typing - mail clerk ext.

Radar sites were called
the "DEW LINE" in
those days