

My Biography
Donald Norman Parodi

In September 5, 1937, my mother and father married at Sunnyvale. After the wedding they all went for a big dinner in San Jose. They lived in Mountain View. One day my mother had a baby but it died. In December 5, 1939, I was born in O'Connor Sanitarium at San Jose. My father and mother liked me. I wasn't born deaf. I was 3 months old I was sick and I had spinal meningitis. My mother and father worried about me. I was sick two months at home and 1 month in the County hospital at Santa Clara. I became deaf. About 1 year later my father and mother quarreled about something and they divorced. My father wanted me but my mother wanted me too. My mother took me and ran away. We lived with Gwen. Later she married again.

One day my mother gave me to some people to keep for a few months. I was about 3 years old. My mother sent me to my grand-parent's home. My father paid them \$30.00 a month.

One day my grandfather put a little motor on a little boat. It was about 4 feet long. The motor fell off and broke. I couldn't ride in the boat and my grandfather told me not to use it any more.

My grandmother and grandfather lived on the farm in Sunnyvale. Sometimes grandfather carried water in the big pot near shed and heated it for my bath. He carried the hot water in the our house and put it in the tub. We didn't have water piped into tub and no plumbing. We used outside toilet near barn. My Uncle was not married. He worked on our farm with my grandfather.

I never had a bicycle when I was a little boy.

One day my grandfather's dog bit his leg. He got his gun to kill the dog but the dog hit the tree. So next morning, the dog was sleeping in shed. My grandfather killed it. He buried it in the field. I was afraid of gun. One morning a horse was very sick, My grandfather killed the horse and carried it out from our farm and put it on a truck and took it away.

Sometimes I got hard eggs from hen's nest and carried them to grandmother's house and put them in old-fashioned ice box. Someday I dropped some eggs and broke it.

Everyday I carried out the rubbish in many bushel baskets from my large house outside.

My grandparent had many animals before I was born.

Every morning when I got up from bed, I went down stairs to kitchen room and sit behind the old-fashioned stove. After breakfast I didn't know how to tie my shoes. My grandmother tied my shoes every morning. I was poor boy on a farm. I wore overalls every day. I slept upstairs. My bedroom was not nice. There was no paint on the wall. The roof had many holes. Every night I was afraid of bad spirits.

In 1945, my Uncle and Aunt married and later they had a baby. They did not have a home. They used a bedroom in grandmother's home for short time. Lopey (?) and Uncle built a new house near grandmother's home. Uncle and Aunt lived in the new home. It was pretty and nice.

On September 17, 1946 my mother took me to school for the deaf. She talked to Dr. Stevenson about me. I cried because I didn't know here not well and stranger to me. I was afraid of school. My mother didn't know where I lived in dormitory. A big boy told my mother go to dormitory. I cried for mother. My mother told me she will stay in the dormitory for me. I went to the dining room. I didn't like to eat peas. I threw fork and knife on the floor. Mr. Birck scolded me after I came back to dormitory. My mother was gone. I stayed at Boys #8 dormitory for 4 years. I did not obey to teachers. Teacher threw some water to on me when I was naughty boy.

In 1947 my grandfather died from his bed. My family missed of him. Our family went to grandfather's funeral. I did not go to his funeral because I stayed at school in Berkeley.

In 1948, the men built new dormitories for Boys #6 and #7. The little boys and I moved to Boys #6 dormitory. On 1948 summer, the men torn down old two dormitories and other building.

My grandmother stopped her work at Cannery in Sunnyvale. She worked Cannery for 22 years.

in 1948, the men built some new bedrooms upstairs and fixed the roof. The men put new walls on house. We got new 4 bedrooms. It looks pretty and nice.

One day I made a swing on a big tree and played it everyday.

One day on morning I went to the her house. I saw blood on the ground near barn. I found a hen died in toilet near the barn. I told my grandmother about the hen. That night a man killed a hen. I put it in the ground.

In 1950 Uncle didn't work on our farm. My grandmother sold 9 acres her land. The men cut all trees from across street. They put logs to our land near barn. They built new school for little children. They built new many wooden homes on our farm. I was disappointed because I liked to live on a farm. Some of my friend moved away.

In the summer of 1950 I stayed with grandmother. One day I saw my uncle put a chair to hold the water tower with his tractor and Uncle's tractor pulled. It banged and dust on the ground. It was 25 feet high. The men destroyed other the farm in Sunnyvale. They built many wooden homes.

One day in summer I built small house of wood boxes. Some bad boys torn down my small house sometime. I was mad at boys and fought them. My grandmother told them to keep out away from our land.

In 1951 on Easter my mother, stepfather, half sister and I went to Sunnyvale to visit my grandmother. My mother told uncle and aunt to take me to my father at Mountain View. I didn't know about my father. We arrived at my father's farm. I cried. My stepmother told me he was my own father. I was surprised. They gave me an Easter basket with candy.

In June 1951 my grandma kept me a month. After the month I went to Camp with some deaf boys for 1 ½ weeks. Mr. Cook and Mr. Leenhouts kept us at Camp. We had lots of fun with deaf boys. After my stepfather's sister took me to my grandmother's home. We waited for my father came down and took me to father's home to keys me for summer. My stepmother are not kind at me all times. I hated my stepmother and father. My father took me to Mrs. Gavalek to keep me a month. My stepmother told Mrs. Gavalek I went to little school for about 3 weeks.

In 1951 during Christmas vacation my father took me and I stayed with him for 2 weeks. I didn't go with my mother on Christmas.

When I was little boy, someday I played with grandparent's a big bell on a big tree. One day stepfather took a big bell from tree and cleaned it. Later my mother gave it to catholic Church. I want to keep it but it was gone.

In 1950 one day my stepfather made a stonewall in backyard. He built a fire place in backyard. It look pretty and nice.

In 1952 on May Miss Robinson took me to Oakland. My mother came down and talked to judge about me on Monday. I asked my mother for a dollar for cirque. Next week I went to Oakland with Miss Robinson again. My father and stepmother came down and talked to Judge about me. Next week we went to San Jose for Juvenile Court. My father and stepmother talked to judge again. My mother won. My father must pay for my clothes and any thing until I grow up. Then my father will not support me any more.

Mrs. Anderson was my teacher in 1952. I didn't learn my lessons. I was not enough smart and not good on my test. Miss Robinson told me to learn hard to work on my lesson next year. I promised to try to study my lesson. Next year, Mr. Jordan was my teacher. I succeeded to learn my lesson for through this year.

Some times my stepfather gave me many pictures. I love to keep all my pictures.

In June 1952 Miss. Robinson took me to San Jose to Mrs. THomas' home. She kept me all summer. Mrs. Thomas home is a large house. I felt stranger. Sometimes I did not obey her. She was too strict. She has a cabin in Santa Cruz. She has two houses. She lives on a ranch in San Jose. About last of June Mrs Cook came to Mrs. Thomas' house. I was surprised. Mr. Cook took me to camp with deaf boys for 1 ½ weeks. Mr. Cook and Mr. Neesam kept the deaf boys and me for vacation camp. I carried 3 catfish to Mrs. Thomas' home. I had lots of fun with them.

On 1953 my mother lived in San Leandro. My mother stayed home for 10 years. They moved to Clearlake Highlands. They bought an old house. My stepfather built new home. They stayed in the old home for a year until my stepfather built house and finished it. They move to new home and live there. Their home is smaller than San Leandro. They have 4 cottages. The cottages are called Sunset Cottages. The people sleep in cottage in summer vacation. My mother earns money on cottages. Their home is near the lakes. At San Leandro my mother worked in fruit factory. Today my mother does not work.

in 1953 Mrs. Burnes decided to keep me for all summer. On Monday she took me to her home in Oakland. slept in the bed over night. Next morning she asked me "Do you want to stay here for all summer. I answered her Yes. Few days the our school closed. I went to stay with Mrs. Burnes. She told me to write composition every day and write about pictures from Post Magazine too and copy it in notebook. One day Mrs. Burnes let me go to see Temescal Lake. I walked to lake Temescal about 5 blocks. I swam in the lake sometimes. About on July 15 I didn't obey Mrs Burnes someday. She was tired of me. Mr. Burnes took me to San Jose at Juvenile Court. Other people kept me for 2 weeks in July. One afternoon I opened the door and the door broke. A women thought I broke the door. She called Polica came and took me to juvenile in jail for 3 ½ days. I told Mr. Bro kinship (?) that I wanted to go to Mrs. Thomas. He called Mrs. Thomas. She said let me go to her home. Mrs. Thomas downstairs had new yellow walls. They have an Apartment in basement. I slept in a little room in downstairs. I stayed at her home for 1 month. At Sept 1st Mr. and Mrs. Thomas went to Sacramento for horse show. They took me to Mr and Mrs Brown for a few days and went to back school.

In 1954 I lived with Mrs. Thomas in San Jose all through the summer. In August Mrs. Thomas told me I would go to camp for 1 ½ week. I thought I would stay with deaf boys again. Mr. Gallegos tok me to Guerneville on Russian River. We arrived at Guerneville. I did not see the camp before. I was surprised. I saw M. Peters and R. Wilson walked on the road. I saw Vonny Askew's parents. Vonny Askew, his brother Peters Wilson, 3 boys and I stayed at camps with Mrs. Askew. We slept in sleeping bags outside. Askew's parent sleep in tents. We went swimming in Russian River. later a week Peters and Wilson went home. It started to rain. We went to Vonny's home in Oakland. I stayed with Askews' parent for 4 days. I had a lots of fun. Mr. Gallegos took me back home at Mrs. Thomas.

In January 1955 my grandmother's dog died. My grandmother cried. A dog was about 15 years old. She missed her dog.

In 1955 on summer I went to Clearlake Highlands. My mother kept me for 2 weeks. One day my mother told me to go to fishing. I got a fish. It was about 6 inches long. I didn't swim in lake. I like to swim in swimming pool. After 2 weeks I took Greyhound bus. My mother paid \$3.90 for bus fare I ride first time on Greyhound bus. I arrived to San Jose. Mr. Gallegos took me to Mrs. TThomas to keep me all summer again. She had a new T.V. in her living room. In Sept I went to my grandma for a few days and return to back school.

In 1955 during Christmas vacation my other told me to go to grandma;s home and stayed with her for a week. Then next week I would stay with my mother for a week. I couldn't go to the road was closed. There was a flood. I took Christmas tree from Boys #7 dormitory and I gave it to grandmother. She was surprised. I decorated the tree. I love to smell Christmas tree.

Mrs. Leenhouts is my teacher in 1955-56 at 8-B grade.

In 1956 on Easter vacation last Thursday noon at 12:45 Mr Cook took three boys and me to Oakland. A boy got on the bus in Oakland. We went across the bridge to San Francisco. I bought a round trip tickets to Sunnyvale. I walked about 6 blocks. My grandma was surprised because I came there all right at 3:30. I stayed with her for 4 days. On Friday morning my uncle told me to burn papers and boxes. I cleaned the around house. On Saturday morning my grandma told me to paint a door in back yard. It looked nice. I cleaned up in the barn. On Monday afternoon I did not go to school, my grandma and I cleaned shed. I put some stuff from shed to the barn. Next afternoon at 12:40, my uncle and grandma took me to Sunnyvale station for bus. I arrived at San Francisco and I rode other bus to Oakland and change other bus for Berkeley. I had lots of fun at grandma's home. I missed my grandma.

In 1956 I lived with Mr. and Mrs. Noble for all summer in Walnut Creek. Mr. Noble, Donnie and Bob went to Iowa for 1 ½ months. They stayed with grandparents farm. Mr. Noble and Bob worked on the farm for grandparent. In August Mr. Noble sold all furniture and things to people. He helped his parent sold things and home. His parent moved here on last of part on Sept. Mr. Noble took some things in trailer to Walnut Creek. Mr. Noble have a home for his parent to live there. His parent are deaf. They live near home near Mr. Noble's home about 1 block.

In 1956 on November my grandmother sold her land in Sunnvayle. She had to live old place for 38 years. She moved to other place in Sunnyvale. The men torn down grandma's house, barn, and shed. Her old place gone and empty. The men built new gas station on her land. My uncle and aunt lived home next door from grandma's old house. They moved with their house to 3 blocks and put down new land. fix rooms paint all rooms and outside of house. They got new garage. I felt miss grandma's old place very much. My grandma live new home from old place to new place about 1 mile.