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My name is Donald Henry Rumfeld. I was born in St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, on the ninth of July in the year 1932. My father's name is George Donald Rumfeld. His grand father was a captain of a merchant sailing vessel and a native of Schleswig Holstein which was part of Denmark until it was taken by Germany in 1866. He did not wish to become a German subject, nor did he like German military methods so he ~~em~~ emigrated to the United States. He married an American girl of German extraction. They had two children, George and ~~Henry~~ Lizette. He named the girl Lizette after his ship. When she grew up she married and had two boys, Henry and George. George is my father. My grandmother's husband died when the boys were still very young. When my father grew up he married my mother, Miss Jeannette Kearsley Husted. They met at the University of Illinois. My mother is of English descent. One of her ancestor's picture is in Independence Hall. My mother's mother and father both trace their ancestors to English who came to the United States before the Revolutionary War. My mother had three brothers and one sister. The oldest brother died when mother was just born. The sister died about four years ago from



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cancer. Mother's mother died when the children were still quite young. Mother's father married again and died about seven years afterward.

When I returned home from the hospital I found I had a two year old sister. Her name is Joan Husted Rumfeld. At that time my family was living in Evanston, Illinois. I don't remember anything about the days before I went to kindergarten except that ⁱⁿ the summer before I was five I went swimming at a beach in Evanston with my sister, the Belcher children, and our mothers. One day when we were swimming Nancy Belcher, my sister and I got caught in a ~~big~~ undertow. A life guard came out and saved us. All of our pictures were in the newspapers the next day, and the life guard got a medal. When I was five I went to kindergarten in Miller School in Evanston. I went there for about two weeks. All I remember about Miller School is that they played music when we came in to school every morning.

Then we moved to Winnetka, Illinois. We bought a house at 545 Provident Avenue. I went to Horace Mann School for the remaining time in kindergarten. I had a teacher named Mrs. Ruddick. At a certain time every day we would have a bottle of milk



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and a cookie. In the afternoon we would all lie down on rugs and have a little rest. In first grade I had a teacher named Mrs. Peterson. I don't remember any thing about that year. In second grade I had Mrs. Stern. Her name does not do her justice. I liked her very much.

Late in the month of May our family and my grandmother left for a trip. We left early in the morning. On the evening of the second day of travel we arrived in Williamsburg, Virginia. John D. Rockefeller rebuilt and restored Williamsburg to the way it was before the Revolutionary War. All of the ~~colored~~ people wore costumes and so did most of the white people. We saw some stocks where people who had been bad were put so everyone could ridicule them. We also saw beautiful gardens and bushes at the Governor's Palace. There were blacksmiths and cobblers right in their shops working off horse's shoes and people's shoes. The jail keeper carried keys about four inches long for the cell locks. A colored boy came up and shined our shoes. It was the first time I had had another boy shine my shoes. Was I impressed! We left there going to Richmond, Virginia. We looked around there for a little while and

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then we left and went through the Blue Ridge Mountains up to Mt. Vernon. It was once the home of George Washington who was a slave owner. Mt. Vernon is beautiful and it is a typical southern plantation. There ~~was~~ a beautiful garden. There is also a wonderful view of the Potomac River from the back porch of the main building. There is a very big kitchen. In it a colored woman was making candles. On one side of the house there are slave quarters. In the front of the house to one side on a beautiful lawn are George and Martha Washington's Tombs. They had flowers and vines all around them with big iron doors to get in side. There is a manuscript, ~~under a glass cover~~, telling about their lives, (in front of the tomb). From there we took a boat up the Potomac to Washington, D.C. We went to the mint and saw how money was made. It was very exciting. We saw the White House and the Capitol Building. We went to the Lincoln Memorial. It made me think of the movie, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington". We climbed up to the top of the Washington Monument and looked down over the reflecting pool. It is a very nice view. We were driving down a boulevard and we saw the Japanese Cherry Trees in bloom. It was very interesting. From there we went to

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We went to see Independence Hall and saw the cracked Liberty Bell. It was very interesting. We also saw Betty Ross's house and where she sat while making the American Flag. We met the president of all the living veterans of the Civil War. He showed us some southern flags that were very old. We then went to New York City. We went to the World's Fair. There was a tall steeple and a big round ball just like it is in pictures. We got samples from a lot of different ~~companies~~ like Heinz. We also went to see an exhibit called "Seeing the Future." We got in little seats that were on a rail that moved. Over our heads was a loud speaker that told us ^{about} everything we were seeing. There was a big glass dome in front of us as we moved around. Inside the dome were lots of modern cars and modern highways and modern everything. It took about twenty minutes to see it. It was interesting to see what the future would be like. We drove all around New York. We went through the Holland tunnel, in to the Bronx, over the Brooklyn Bridge, and on a ferry that passed the Statue of Liberty. It was very real and exciting. Then we ~~started~~ ^{came} home. When I got home I had to start in to school again.



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In Horace Mann School there were old iron fire escapes down the sides of the building. In fire drills a boy would go out on the end and weight down the iron ladder. I never got a chance to do that and I always wanted to do it.

The ~~summer~~^{mer} after second grade I went to Camp Hastings. It is a Y.M.C.A. camp. I learned how to swim and ride horses up there. One time when we were riding on a bridle path in the woods on horse back one of my stirrups came loose. I got all excited and jumped around. The horse jumped and jerked. I didn't have any place to put my foot so I fell off. Was I scared! At the end of two weeks my parents came up to get me. I told them I wanted to stay another week. So I started to walk away but I turned around and ran back and sobbed and cried that I wanted to go home with them. I was homesick.

During that summer Horace Mann School was torn down. The new school was Crow Island. A lot of my mother's friends thought that Crow Island School looked like a factory. I had a teacher named Mrs. Ostergaard.



At the end of the year the class was messing around Mrs. Ostergaard got mad and cried because we were

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so nasty. Soon after school got out a bunch of boys and ~~I~~ myself were in a field just south of Crow Island playing with matches. I threw one in a pile of dried grass and it flared up. We all got on our bikes and rode home just as fast as we could go. I was shaking like a leaf. I told Mom and she got on my sister's bike and rode out there with me. Just part of the field was burned. It must have been damp ground. Boy was I lucky, relieved, and bawled out!

Later that summer Dick Prasse and I went up to a farm in Delaven, Wisconsin. It was a dairy farm. They had many kinds of live stock, dogs and cats. It was a fairly big farm. They raised, ~~bottles~~ ~~corn~~, corn and beans. Every day we would go to ~~the~~ Lake Delaven in the station wagon and swim. Archie Wallent's family had a summer house on Lake Delaven. He would go up there ~~at~~ the same time we would go to the farm. He would come swimming with us every once in a while. We had very good food and a lot of it. Mom says that that's is where I learned to eat. In the morning a list would be read off. It would tell us what we had to do that day. When we were done with our work we could do what ever we wanted. Some days we would take the pony ~~and~~ a lunch and go fishing ~~to~~ down ~~to~~ the



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creek ^{on} ~~Other~~ days we would stay around the farm and help ~~help~~ with the extra work or go swimming at the lake. For two days I helped on a hay baler. In the evening we would help with the milking and then go in and listen to stories that the mother of the man that owned the farm would read. I had a lot of fun up there. Dick Prasse and Bill Ryno still go there every summer. I was there for three weeks. I had the most fun I have ever had up there. When I came back, school was ready to begin. I was going in to fourth grade. I was put in Mrs Krenwinkle's class. I don't remember much about that year except that it was a year I enjoyed. That summer shortly after school was out our family went up to the Dells in Wisconsin. We stayed in a little ~~Hotel~~ overlooking the Wisconsin River. We stayed there for two days. There were a lot of Indian ~~exhibits~~ exhibits that were very interesting. We had an Indian guide take us around in a boat to all the different islands. It was a nice experience. We came back after two days. I swam, sold magazines and messed around ^{the rest of the summer}. Then school started again. My new teacher was Mrs. ~~Donais~~ Gordonais. While I was at school that year I played a lot of soccer. For my birthday in July I

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had gotten a soccer ball. I took it to school to play soccer. Was I proud of my ball! David Lewis kicked it against the barbs on top of the fence in Crow Island Playground while he was playing soccer and broke it. Was I mad! Everyone said, "Oh, you can get it fixed easy." I took it home to Dad and he said that it could not be fixed. It was a soccer ball wasted. I never took anything else that could be ruined to school again. In December Dad went up to the Naval Recruiting Center to apply for a commission in the United States Navy. He passed everything but his weight. He was seven pounds underweight. He ate ^{lots of} ~~nothing but~~ bananas, sweets, and soda fountain goods. He gained his seven pounds just long enough to be weighed. Then he lost it again within four days. He was made a Lieutenant. He was sent to Quonset Point, Rhode Island for his Naval Training. He left December 20, 1942. Mom went up to Rhode Island for his graduation. He was sent to Elizabeth City, North Carolina. It was a blimp squadron station. Our family left Winnetka in March, 1943. We rented a house in a group of houses called "The Cabbage Patch". It was called that because before the Navy came to Elizabeth City there was a cabbage patch

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there owned by a Negro. I started school fairly happy, but when I found out that they were doing work two or three grades over my head I wasn't quite so happy. The teacher was very southern. Her name was Mrs. Hill. She talked very fast and not too clearly. She ~~talked~~ ^{wrote} ~~very~~ ^{script} fast and not too well. I had not learned how to read or write ^{te} ^{script} ~~it~~ ^{yet}. There were about forty children in the class. She didn't have any extra time to teach me. She wanted to put me back to second grade because that was the grade of work I was doing. The principle talked with my mother and decided that I would go to summer school. When school got out that year I wasn't too happy. ^R We lived quite a long way from the school and I walked every day to summer school. Then one day I cut my toe with an axe and I had three stiches. Mother had to drive me ~~every~~ to school every day because I couldn't walk. After summer school got out I understood the work perfectly. ^R I met another Navy boy. We raised turtles. We had around twenty turtles. We had them from one inch across to five inches across the back of the shell. We had one that was a foot and a half across. ^R But we didn't keep him with our other turtles. We



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also raised chickens in my back yard. It was a novel experience. I also had a big garden. I raised watermelons, cant^el^ulopes, cucumbers, corn, string beans, radishes, onions, and carrots. I had a lot of fun working on it. While we were down there, there was one race riot. All the Navy men were issued 38's. One man in my dad's division was cut up by a colored mess attend^{ant's} razor. I bought a Cocker Spaniel with money I had earned selling newspapers in the morning. I worked the rest of the summer after summer school. One day I had heard a record about a Chinese boy. When the parents love a boy they would name him a very long name. So when I got my dog I loved him so I named him "Nikkinikkitembonosoremboomahmoochigamagamagoocha." He was not a thorough ~~breed~~^{bred} cocker but almost. There was not much swim^ming but we did go boating quite often. We also went hunting. There were a lot of birds, snakes, turtles, and wild life down there. The Chaplain of the Naval Station lived at Kitty Hawk - ~~v~~^yery close to Nag's Head. Their house was right on the Atlantic Ocean. He invited me up there to spend a week swimming in the sea. He had a boy just my age. One day when we were down at the beach we saw a big whale lying on

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the beach. Did it stink! It was the first real whale I had ever seen. Also while I was down there a mine floated in. A man who was swimming there called the Coast Guard Patrol and they took care of it. Every morning and evening the Coast Guard Patrol would patrol up and down the beach. ~~Then~~ school started again. I was going in to sixth grade. My teacher was named Miss Bell. She was a very nice teacher. About April Dad received his orders to leave North Carolina and report to Bremerton, Washington for further orders. We were to leave March 7th. Just before we left Dad decided to take me up on top of the blimp hanger and look through a telescope at the surrounding country. We had to walk up a stair ladder to get to the top. Was it a long climb! It was a lot of fun looking out the big bay window.

We left Elizabeth City, in our car, March 7, 1944. The car was quite full, my sister, mother and father, the dog, and all of our luggage. We drove from Elizabeth City, North Carolina to Cincinnati, Ohio in one night. My dad's brother and his family live there so we stayed over night with them. We left Cincinnati in the morning heading for Chicago. We arrived in Chicago evening. Dad was going out to the west coast in two days. Mom, Joan, and I were going to stay and

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finish the school year here. I was in sixth grade. I was put in Miss Lilley's class in Skokie School. At the last minute Dad decided that we would go with him to the west coast. So I checked out of Skokie School after two days and we left for the west coast. We stopped the first night in Omaha, Nebraska. We stayed with some of Mother's relatives over night. We left early the next morning. We arrived that evening in Denver, Colorado. We stayed with Dad's uncle. He was the manager of the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. We were his guests that night. It was a lot of fun. My dog was being very good but the altitude affected his stomach a little bit. We left there about noon and arrived in Rock Springs, Wyoming. We slept there that night. We then went to Boise, Idaho. From there we went to Portland, Oregon. We slept there one night and left the next morning for our destination, Seattle, Washington. Dad was to report in Bremerton, Washington for some training for sea duty. Bremerton is just across Puget Sound from Seattle. We rented an apartment in a Navy project in East Port Orchard. It was just across the bay from Bremerton. Joan and I started school in a little school a bunch of old retired teachers ~~who~~ were restored because there was such a demand for teachers. We stayed

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there for about two months. I sold papers all of the time I was there. We left there for Astoria, Oregon. Dad had to be in Astoria for the commissioning of the ship dad was to be on. The name of it was the U.S.S. Hollandia, C.V.E 97. When we were about three quarters of the way the back wheel spring broke. We had to be towed about thirty-five miles to Astoria. Dad just got there in time for the commissioning. We stayed in an hotel in Astoria that night. We had wired ahead from East Port Orchard to reserve a cottage. The cottage we had reserved was in Seaside, Oregon, a little coastal town about eighteen miles from Astoria. We left Astoria the next morning for Seaside. We got there about thirty minutes later and started hunting for our cottage. We found it and moved right in. The next day we went to a little aquarium. It had a lot of ocean life in glass cases. Hanging from a wall were a lot of Japanese fishing floats. The man at the aquarium said that they broke away from Japanese fishing nets off the coast of Japan in storms. It takes from three to seven years for them to float to our coast. One morning mother, Joan, and I got up at four o'clock and went out on the beach and walked for about six hours hunting for some floats. Joan and I each found one. The man who used to live in our cottage was a coast



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guard patrolman. He patrolled up and down the beach every morning and found a lot of floats. He sold some to me very cheap. I have about ten now. We stayed in Seaside, Oregon for about three weeks. Dad had to go with the ship so mom, had another Navy wife drive down with us in our car to San Francisco. We left the sixteenth of June. We stayed the first night at Port Orford, Oregon. We left there early in the morning on our way to Eureka, California. We came in to Eureka that night and stayed at a beautiful old English style inn. It was called the Eureka Inn. We spent a very pleasant night there and left the next morning for Garberville, California. We spent a night there. We left the next morning for Berkeley, California. It is just across the bay from San Francisco. We dropped our passenger off at San Francisco. We drove all around. We went through Chinatown, over the Bay view Bridge, over the Golden Gate Bridge, and we saw a cable car being turned around and going up ^{a hill}. We slept there that night. We got up early the next morning and left Berkeley for Fresno, California. We arrived in Fresno and got a room in a hotel and left our luggage there. Then we got in our car and drove over to see a Navy couple we had known in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. We visited with them a

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while and then went back to the hotel and went to bed. We got up the next morning and left Fresno ^{heading} for La Jolla, California. We arrived in La Jolla quite late in the evening. We luckily got a room in a hotel. We slept late the next morning. We left there about ten o'clock in the morning for our destination, Coronado, California. We arrived there about noon. It is a very beautiful little town. We had to take a ferry from San Diego to get to Coronado. It is connected to the mainland only by a narrow strand that is very close to Mexico. Mom went to the real estate agencies to look at houses. She bought a lot with two houses on it and we moved right in that afternoon. The woman who sold us the house loaned us all the things we needed until our furniture and other belongings arrived. We joined the Hotel Del Coronado swimming pool. I went up there almost every day. I took sailing lessons from a man that worked for the hotel. I had a lot of fun that summer. Then school started again. ~~I was put in a room with some dumb children. There were a lot of dumb children down there but there were more smart children. Later in the year I was put in a class with the smarter children. They were also the nice children.~~ I joined Boy Scout's in November. I had a



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wonderful time in Boy Scouts. I am now a Star Scout. I raised pigeons and parakeets while I was down there. When we had been down there awhile my dog was killed by a high school boy in a car. I haven't had another dog since he died. Every so often dad's ship would come in and I would go on it for dinner. I always looked forward to seeing dad. We lived in Coronado for over two years. Then dad got enough points and the war was over so he asked to be discharged. We had our furniture sent and we sold our house and moved in to a little apartment for the last two days we were there. The last day we were there I was playing football and I got a bad cut in the eye. It wasn't especially fun with moving and everything. The highlights of our trip home were the Grand Canyon, Mexico City, Mexico, and New Orleans.

We stopped first at the Grand Canyon. I can't say what I think about the Grand Canyon. There were a lot of little cabins and lodges. It was just like a little city. It had its own hospital, railroad station, and even public stores. You could rent a guide and a ^{Group} bunch of horses and go down to the stream at the bottom of the canyon. We did not have time to do that. Mom was sick which made us hurry all the more to get out of high altitude.



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We left Grand Canyon and headed for Laredo, ^{Texas} We stayed in Las Cruces, New Mexico the evening before we got to Laredo. We got to Laredo the next day and went through the Mexican customs. We stayed the first night in Monterrey, Mexico. It had a lot of modern buildings and a lot of old buildings. Then we went to Mexico City. We saw the cathedral, the Benito Juarez monument, the ~~place~~, Maximilian's castle, the Aztec ruins, and the Liberty Arch. It was very interesting seeing how the Mexican people live. We left there going up the same way we had come down. From Laredo we went to New Orleans. We stayed there about two days in an auto court. We went to see the French market. It was very interesting. We left New Orleans going up to Chicago. We went through Memphis, Tennessee. We slept that night in ^{Chicago} ~~Chicago~~, Illinois. The next day we went to Chicago. We stopped in Dad's old office to pick up some mail and then we went on to Winnetka, Illinois. We stayed with some friends until we bought our house. I started school in Skokie School in Winnetka. I found all of my old friends and they remembered me. The only thing that I missed while I was away was ice skating besides my friends. Our house is in Glencoe, Illinois.



The End