

September 11, 1953

Autobiography --- Robert R. Buntain  
401 1/2 W. 42nd Street  
Austin, Texas

Born early on the morning of December 19, 1913, in Des Moines, Iowa. Educated in the Des Moines Public Schools, and a semester or so at Drake University.

Enlisted in the army in 1934, and have been in service practically all the time since. An undistinguished career, which I intend to terminate, by retirement, in from two to five years, depending on intervening circumstances.

Married to Mary Helen McDonald since December 6, 1942, a singularly happy marriage, even before Dianetics. Two daughters, Allynid, age 7 years and Florence, 5 months, are undoubtedly the smartest, most intelligent, best behaved -----  
Sorry!

Learned of Dianetics from ASF article and sent a money order to the publisher for a copy of the book, Air Mail. Mary Helen and I co-audited. I benefitted enormously (psycho-neurosis and arthritis) and she was helped some, I think, although she wasn't in the kind of condition I was! The entire family has benefitted from my processing, including an intensive by Wayne Dunbar, and from child Dianetics, preventive dianetics, etc.

Currently, between hitches in the Air Force, I am a professional student at the Foundation. Upon completion of the eight week course, I hope to get my required auditing done in and around Austin, get certified, then practice professionally there, spare time, while finishing out my military service.

6' 1/2", 175-180 lbs, I look rather like the picture of LRH in the back of "Self Analysis". I am told that this is deceptive, however, and my hair is somewhere between buckskin and bay.

I write a little and have some ability to draw, which will probably remain undeveloped. I am interested in most things.

Health, stamina, etc., are above normal for my age, but I hope to improve them.

It's nice, here at the Foundation, but rough. I got a look at myself, a day or two ago!

1005 Pierce Road  
Madison, Tenn.  
September 21, 1953

Dear Friends,

I very much enjoyed meeting with you last weekend, and I hope that I'll see you again before too long. It is indeed gratifying that so many of you were able to come and participate in this first regional dianetic conference. I am sorry that I don't have the time to write each of you a personal letter of thanks for your cooperation in helping to make this conference a success. I am sure, however, that you will understand and accept this in its place.

There is still one more favor that I would ask of you. While everything is fresh in your mind, will you please write and tell me what you did not like about this conference. What didn't we do that you would like to see in a conference? What did we do that we should not have done? A few thoughts now will be of real help to whomever takes on the job of running the next one, - and I am sure that there will be a next one.

A few of you have asked about tape copies of some of the speeches. I have borrowed another machine for a couple of weeks and will be glad to copy any of the talks for the cost of the tape. I have not run through all the tapes, but the quality of the part of one that I checked was fairly good. If you prefer to borrow our tape and make your own copy, you can do so as soon as I finish with them. Drop me a line if you are interested.

The planned conference report looks like a long job. I'll try to get it to you by Thanksgiving Day, but I'll only promise that you'll get it by the end of the year. As a rough guess, I'll say it will run 24 pages. I'll let you know later what extra copies will cost.

Enclosed is a list of registrants. Why not put the "C" in A R C by writing a letter today to one of them.

To those of you who are at present inactive in dianetics, I would add a few words. You can start alone. You can, for example, look around <sup>and</sup> select one or more things that you can change. If you have a recorder, you can organize an Operation Bootstrap group. There are several things that you can do to improve yourself, then when you can <sup>get</sup> a chance, have some auditing. You can be better than you are. It's up to you.

As never was,

*Ernie*

P.S. I have a pair of bifocals that were left in Jim Welgos' room. If the owner will let me know, I'll send them on. If this conference was enough so that you no longer need them, please let me know PDQ.