

Anderson, Sen. Jerald, Interview:

Jerald Anderson was born in Sun Rise, Minnesota on April 2, 1934. He attended high school ^{at North Branch?} there, and upon graduation, entered the University of Minnesota. He graduated from there in 1959 with a degree in dentistry. After graduation from college, he entered the army for 2 years and then started his own practice after leaving the army.

In 1970 he was elected ^{to} the state legislature, and has since been re-elected in 1972 and 1976. This tape also deals with his goals, present and future, and his family background.

Interviewer: John LeDoux

Date: October 17, 1977

Subjects Covered: Tape 1 Side 1

019 Family Background:

- 019 Jerald Anderson was born in Sun Rise, Minnesota on April 2, 1934.
 023 He lived in Sun Rise until the age of 6, and then he and his family moved to North Branch. (1940).
 027 1942 his second brother was born.
 030 He has lived in North Branch ever since with the exception of the 7 years he was at the University of Minnesota, and the two years that he was in the service.
 036 Both of his parents were born in the United States. His mother's name is Evelyn Nelson, and she was born in Amador Township on Sept. 7, 1913.
 042 His father's name is Clayton Anderson, and he was born in North Branch on October 22, 1910.
 047 His father was a grocer, and also owned the Ford Car dealership.
 055 His paternal grandfather was born in Sweden, and immigrated. (Edward Anderson).
 057 His paternal grandmother's name was Anna Berghdahal, and she was born in Isanti township.
 065 His maternal grandfather's name was Conrad Nelson and was born in Amador township, and his maternal grandmother's name was Mary Johnson, and she was born in Sterling Township in Wisconsin.
 073 His wife's name is Patsy Ann Young and she was born in West Sweden Township in Wisconsin on August 5, 1936.
 080 He has three sons, Jeffery, born in St. Paul on March 31, 1959
 Brent, born in St. Paul on Sept. 28, 1966, and Patrick, also born in St. Paul on June 16, 1969.

093 Growing up in North Branch, and his Education:

- 093 He grew up on a farm, so he helped out on that during school.
 109 In 1950, his father purchased the Ford Dealership in town and so his last two years in high school, he helped out there.
 115 He graduated from high school in 1952.
 118 He then went on ^{to} the University of Minnesota. During the college summers, he worked in a Dairy Queen that his father had purchased. The money he made went towards his education.
 130 He started at the University in the Fall of 1952.
 136 He was not politically active in college.
 144 He lived in Pioneer Hall.
 145 In the fall of 1955, he started Dental school and lived at Cy Omega Hall ^{Pu?}

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- 146 He married his wife Pat between his sophomore and Junior year of college. She had attended Hamline University.
- 159 After Dental School, he and his wife and their oldest son lived in San Antonio, Tx, and Brooklyn, New York. He was in the service at the time.
- 164 His wife now teaches at North Branch.
- 180 He graduated in June of 1959 and worked for 3 months with another dentist.
- 186 In October of 1959, he entered the army for 2 years.
- 190 After he left the army (1961) he set up his practice in North Branch.
- 218 In North Branch he is active in the civic club, the Jaycees, the Lion's Club, and is a member of the Methodist church.

242 He first enters Politics:

- 249 He first became interested in politics during the 1960's.
- 259 It was others that got him interested.
- 265 His family was always interested in politics.
- 276 1970 was the first time he ever ran for an elected office, and he won a senate seat.
- 287 He felt his background and his reputation won him his seat.
- 300 He was able to meet a lot of people during his campaign. He felt that people were looking for alternatives to the incumbents.
- 315 The new senators (of 1970) were a whole generation younger than the incumbents.
- 319 His first year he served on the education and Natural resources committees.
- 337 In the 1972 election, the DFL won control of the Senate, and he was appointed to the vice chairmanship of the education committee. He also sat on the judicial committee.
- 348 Later he became chairman of the School Finance Sub Committee.
- 374 In the 1974 election, he ran unopposed.
- 396 One of the main reasons that he decided to run, was because in October of 1969 his wife was injured in an accident. While she was recuperating at home, they had lots of time to talk about the future. They decided it was time for a change and that is when he decided to run for a senate seat.
- 428 The idea was well ^{received} with his friends.
- 440 Another reason for his entering, was to try and do something about the high property taxes that his community was having to pay.
- 454 His district includes Chisago county, South Isanti county, and northern Anoka county.
- 478 The political views of this area are primarily middle of the road.
- 505 He himself also votes middle of the road. He feels himself to be a conservative democrat.
- 543 He is interested in the financial aspect of government.
- 574 In his second election, the main issue was basically dealing with the preservation of natural areas.
- 599 He introduced a bill which establishes the Wild River State Park, during the 1973 session.
- 603 Now he is also a member of the Minnesota Resource Committee that spends ^{apx.} 25 million dollars. He served as chairman for 2 years.
- 630 He is in favor of the state buying up land and setting it aside for resource preservation and wild life habitat areas.

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- 686 Many folks in the community are still divided over the Wild River Park, ie. should it be developed or set aside .
- 700 A bill that stands out in his mind is the funding for the Resource 2000 bill.
- 733 This bill gives money to the department of Natural Resources for the betterment and purchase of land within park boundaries, and the acquisition of lands in the metro park system. It also provided money for bicycle trails, tennis courts, and nature trails throughout Minnesota.
- 787 He also feels that the Education Finance Bills were also a step in the right direction for the future of education in the state.
- 820 The issue that he is most concerned with now is the reorganization of Minnesota's 348 school districts.
- 860 The reason for this was that the cost in many districts of education is sky rocketing, and that another way of delivering education is necessary.
- 895 He didn't find it difficult being a freshman senator.

Side 2 Tape 1:

- 040 The biggest change that he has noticed is that he is much more busy now than he ever was. He is now the chairman of the Energy and Housing Committee.
- 050 He sees the legislature as moving towards becoming a full time Legislature. One of the indications is in the pay raises of 1971 (\$4800), 1973 (\$8400), and 1980 where the salary was increased to 18,500 dollars.
- 069 The legislature has changed from meeting 5 months every other year, to almost year round sessions.
- 090 He enjoys the ability to meet Minnesotans. The field has limitless horizons.
- 108 There is a lot of strain on your family life. Trying to make ends meet ~~etc.~~... You spend alot of time away from your family.
- 125 He hasn't made any plans about the future, but the way it looks now, he will be content to simply finish out his remaining 3 years.