

Interview

01-20-2014 by HARRRY ZIRKELBACH

Who is worthy of interviewing?

Everyone met is a new interview. The plain truth, we prepare to meet everyone naturally, being just who we want to be. That's how we are accepted. Life has been no more complex than a continuous interview, in joining the human parade.

For all who have lived, this hint; You only have that one instant to make a first impression. For most, the remaining days of that acquaintance, is reinforcement.

On a personal basis, I must admit that the first impression is not an absolute. I have changed my mind upon knowing intimate detail of trials and tribulations of those I misread initially. Universally this is because they became part of an orbit of acquaintances, and rubbing together, the initial error recognized, admitted.

Always a sobering moment. Realize that there may have been other initial meetings where I misread someone.

To summarize, each is interviewing and being interviewed every time another is meet. This, the essence of preparing to formally interview others.

In the last year of the 20th Century our Census Bureau began recruiting employees to count Americans on 1 April 2000, as required by the Constitution. Interested applicants were asked to take a written test. From those meeting minimum requirements, an eligibility list was created. In August 1999 an Aurora office was opened. I became one of the first two non-management personnel.

As receptionist/clerk I became the first Federal Census face new employees met. They were briefly interviewed, then directed to the tasks needed. In 5 months I met more of America than in years of employment in commerce.

At this temporary employment, all applying were bright and friendly, not just on the day of employment, but consistently through months of preparation, then, the much shorter counting period.

That initial interview for those found eligible was a phone call. Immediate query, still interested? (Months since taking the exam). If yes, explain the opportunity, tell them when and where to report. Later welcome them aboard. In more than 200 interviews, men and women were recruited for the Aurora 2000 Census Office.

Some already known, beckoned as welcome friends.

One day, a respected, familiar name appears on the list to call; learn from his wife, after many questions, he was not available, was slipping into Alzheimer. Many I knew as bright, socially and physical superior to the average American had been chosen by this disease for an early quiet withdrawal from society.

We agree, he should not be embarrassed.
That was a shock, and afterward,

this recall.

Not many years ago, my friend, as Senior Active Duty Navy Officer in the Rocky Mountains, was occasionally designated to inform families of their son's death in Viet Nam. Far too often, he had received continuous rage, scorn, tears, physically abuse, his uniform and flag spat upon, "for killing our son".

He responded with dignity, understanding, forced acceptance.

From that one Census non-interview, my silent dignified farewell.

And contrary to Dylan Thomas's words to his father to fight death, my friend could "now go gentle into that good night."

