

At Mc Donough Elementary School, he skipped
two grades, and entered department graduate
nine years. Always two years younger than
his classmates, he referred to them as
"those children." His terrific sense of comedy
came through brilliantly in "Confederacy
of Dunces".

At Alvir Fortier High School, was
entered at twelve, and Tulane University
at thirteen. Upon graduation from Tu-
lane, he received a Phi Beta Kappa Key,
a Fellowship to Columbia University, and
Honors in English, the only student to
the latter in a huge graduating class.

Teaching posts included Hunter
College in New York, University of Southwestern
in Lafayette, and St. Mary's Dominican
in New Orleans.

He served two years in the United
States Army in Puerto Rico at Fort Bu-
chanan. Through his command of the
Spanish language and

His innate teaching ability, he was made Leader of
the English Team, with eighteen college graduates
under his supervision. The recognition of his
superior attainments resulted in his being
given a private room. He purchased a Type-
writer and then began writing his genius work
"A Confederacy of Dunces". Relative to this
I quote from a letter to you: "Mother,
since I am relieved from the task of
correcting papers, thoughts about a novel
of New Orleans have surfaced, long latent,
and I am happily and fervently writing
expressing myself." ^{PP} Pulitzer Prize Winner
was starting to blossom.

While in Puerto Rico, he submitted
the manuscript to Robert Gottlieb of Simon
and Schuster. The editor warmly en-
couraged him in the beginning, and, after
a period of almost two years, vividly
turned against him and wrote scathing
comments, in addition to making him
rewrite, rewrite, rewrite, etc. Gottlieb's
last letter to my son contained this
villainous, ludicrous statement: "It isn't
about anything. It could be improved,
but it wouldn't sell. The tragic actor
of this vendetta, mail is that my son
didn't want me to be hurt as badly
as he was hurt. Oh, if I had known,
I could have offered some in his price."

wholly despair, How appalling was his suffering
in the hands of a grossly stupid and narrow
so-called editor.

The Dancing side produced four teachers; my aunt and sister were elementary teachers, I was a high school teacher, and my son at university level. He taught extensively with drive and dedication. Sister Mary Lou, president at Dominican College said that he was the only instructor whom she received no complaints. His beautifully resonant theatrical voice and forceful delivery made him a wonderfully engaging speaker. As a boy he was an actor, artist, good social dancer, and very skillful in sports. I gave him plenty and happily of my long cultural training: dramatic school started fifteen years, piano, two years, and riding, five years. It was his mother during his formative years, and he

became my mentor, when he uttered Tolstoy
suggesting certain books to read.

The following quote will give some insight
into the maturity, judgment and analytical powers:
Betty has a new like silver shagreened
those children his classmate, two years his senior
"Those children thought was Shakespeare a line
years about the two teachers, saying
"Miss Kemian accompanied our
classroom playing and Miss Ferry plays for
state occasions. Two years ago he laughingly
said "State occasions, showing his comic
sense. An outstanding comic, he used to
imitate Miss Alma Will, the efficient and
very strict principal, addressing the
school at morning assembly but in a
disrespectful mood, but catching her
very dignified speech. It was quite en-
thralling and I would often request that theater.
He would have been a fine musician
had he agreed to my going him to
His amused eyes looked at people on a
philosophy; that's the secret of "Confederacy".

Born a gentleman and reared a
gentleman, he was very gracious to poorer
people. His hands on Mt. Paranor
and his feet firmly planted on the ground.
Empathy flowed from, and is deeply
valued in his companionship for those
hardy people he studied.

to the bank, "40 of \$5.00 — to 7 of \$20.00 —
10 7 of \$20.00 —. She give us us of more, and
she say: "Some is improvise and some isn't. To-
night when you say your prayer, ask God to
bless you with better understanding of fractions.

Then we take rest our Betty, and
most of us don't read good books at the same
time to read all the time, because her nerves
ain't strong, and she can't keep off her
all her sufferin' to God. Then, the inter-
missing bell ring, and we go to the house,
and play rae. The floor is wood, and we
rove, pick up some dust.

Then we go up to our room, and we
have a little jaw graphy, not much being them
sisters ain't showing no interest in travel, only
going from one convent to another, and some
times to the Mother Provincial House. We
call out the names of some states, but we
don't go the map and point to them. That's
why we don't have much with them, because
them sisters don't handle money, only the
nicks, pins, and quarters, bring for
the mission babies. I see sisters nice
and polite what a mission baby
traded like, and she shows me a colored
lady holding her baby and a bunch
of little colored children standing with her.
We had plenty living over us, but I
don't well, sister not