

## EWELL MARTIN DAGENHART

ONE OF THE REASONS THAT DAD WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT BEING A REPUBLICAN WAS THAT WHILE HE WAS IN BLACK MTN HOSPITAL ( he was a disabled WWII vet) THEY SURVEYED OFF THE ROCKY SPRINGS ROAD TO BE PAVED AND IF YOU KNOW WHERE DAD LIVED AT THAT TIME YOU KNOW THAT THE ROAD WAS PLACED IN HIS FRONT YARD, BECAUSE OTHER LANDOWNERS WERE DEMOCRATS AND THEY DID NOT WANT THEIR LAND TAKEN... SO THAT WAS WHERE IT WAS PLACED AND FROM THEN ON DAD WORKED EVERYDAY AND EVERY ELECTION TO HELP THE REPUBLICAN PARTY GROW. MANY TIMES DAD HELD MEETINGS AT HIS HOUSE TO GET GOOD FOLKS AS HE WOULD SAY TO RUN FOR AND HOLD OFFICE TO FURTHER THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE. YOU SEE BACK IN THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES EVEN INTO THE SEVENTIES IF YOU WERE NOT A DEMOCRAT YOU DID NOT GET A STATE JOB AND DAD WAS TRYING TO CHANGE THAT BY GETTING GOOD REPUBLICANS TO GET ELECTED AND CHANGE THE WAY BUSINESS WAS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL.

*GENE*

I REMEMBER ATTENDING A REPUBLICAN DINNER AT TAYLORSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA WHERE A MAN RUNNING FOR OFFICE STATED THAT ...TO BE A REPUBLICAN IN THE STATE OF NC YOU WERE STILL PROTECTED BY THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES..... YOU KNOW THAT THIS BROUGHT LAUGHTER AND IT REALLY STUCK WITH ME AS WHAT AN UPHILL BATTLE DAD AND MANY OTHERS FACED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF THE DAY AND TIME.

DAD RARELY SHOWED ANY ANGER BUT WAS ALWAYS UPSET IF THE REPUBLICANS LOST A CLOSE ELECTION AND HE WOULD ASSESS WHAT THEY COULD DO BETTER AND WOULD HAVE A GAME PLAN FOR THE NEXT ELECTION. HE WORKED VERY HARD TO SEE CHANGE FOR OUR NATION, STATE, AND COUNTY. THEN THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE AND MORE PEOPLE SAW A NEED TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO.....WE FINALLY ELECTED A REPUBLICAN SHERIFF AND THEN A REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN AND FINALLY A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR. TO SAY THE LEAST DAD WAS HAPPY BUT HE LOVED THE GAME OF POLITICS AND WOULD GO AND DO AS MUCH AS HIS HEALTH WOULD ALLOW HIM TO DO AND ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PARTY FINANCIALLY.

WHEN MY WIFE TURNED 21 DAD TOOK HER TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO BE REGISTERED TO VOTE .....THE LADY ASK IF SHE WANTED TO REGISTER DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN....A MAN IN THE BACK SPOKE OUT AND SAID REPUBLICAN BECAUSE HE KNEW MY DAD!

DAD ENJOYED LIFE AND HIS MANY FRIENDS HE MET DURING HIS LIFETIME AND HE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR HIS FELLOW REPUBLICANS BUT HE ALSO HAD A LOT OF DEMOCRATS WHO RESPECTED HIM AND HIS POLITICS AND WHEN DAD PASSED AWAY THEY EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS OF HOW MUCH THEY APPRECIATED HIS LOVE OF COUNTRY AND TO BE INVOLVED AND STILL BE A GENTLEMAN IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS.

MY DAUGHTER REMEMBERS BEING WITH DAD AT HARRIS TEETERS IN TAYLORSVILLE ONE DAY AND HE SAW HIS GOOD FELLOW REPUBLICAN GAITHER SMITH AND TOLD HER TO GIVE THIS OLD REPUBLICAN A BIG HUG ...SHE TOLD HIM IT WAS GOOD TO GIVE A GOOD REPUBLICAN A HUG..THE PERSON TALKING WITH GAITHER WAS DEMOCRAT AND DID NOT GET A HUG

THIS TICKLED GAITHER TO NO END.... DAD AND GAITHER SPOKE OF THIS MANY TIMES.

THE ONE TIME THAT I REMEMBER MY DAD SAYING ANYTHING BAD ABOUT OUR COUNTRY'S OFFICIALS WAS WHEN THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT A PERSON COULD BURN THE AMERICAN FLAG IN PROTEST AS IT WAS THEIR RIGHT.....HE SAID FAR TOO MANY MEN AND WOMEN HAD GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR THIS COUNTRY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. HE FELT THAT NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO BURN OUR FLAG IN PUBLIC AND THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS RESPECT OUR FLAG. HE STATED THAT WE AS A COUNTRY WERE ON THE DECLINE AND THAT WHEN WE LOSE RESPECT FOR THINGS WE LOSE RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR OUR COUNTRY AS WELL.

DAD WAS A COMMUNITY LEADER AND WAS INVOLVED IN MANY ASPECTS OF HIS CHURCH AND SERVED AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND SUPPORTED THE ELK SHOALS METHODIST CAMP. DAD AND MOM HELPED A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THEIR TIME AND THEY WERE NOT ALL REPUBLICANS BUT THEY WENT AN EXTRA MILE IF YOU WERE.

WE LOST DAD ON DEC. 20, 1999...HE WENT TO BE WITH MOM WHO HAD PASSED AWAY A COUPLE YEARS EARLIER AND IF POLITICS IS ALLOWED IN HEAVEN, THEN I KNOW THAT THEY ARE ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE AND ENJOYING EVERY MINUTE OF SOMETHING THAT THEY LOVED SO MUCH.

SUBMITTED BY: GENE DAGENHART (SON)