



0. Aviator - Story Preface

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3. HOWARD HUGHES: AN ORPHAN
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Howard Hughes, Jr. loved aviation. This image, which is maintained by the Library of Congress, describes how Howard appeared after he purchased a new plane made by Boeing: "Full lgth., standing, facing slightly right; in front of his new Boeing [100A] Army Pursuit Plane, Inglewood, Calif." [Online via the Library of Congress](#), "reproduction number" LC-USZ62-63333.

*If you can help him
to forget himself,
get along better with boys
and perhaps teach him
to keep his hut in order,
I ask for nothing else.*

Allene Gano Hughes to Lt. Aures
Regarding her son, Howard R. Hughes, Jr. July, 1914

Allene Hughes was concerned about her son when she wrote to Lt. Aures, a stockade leader at Dan Beard's [Outdoor School](#) in Pennsylvania. It was the month before World War I erupted in Europe, and young Howard Robard Hughes, Jr. - an only child - was twelve years old.

His [mother](#) always worried about him. It was a time - before [preventive vaccinations](#) pioneered by [Jonas Salk](#) and Albert Sabin were available - when [infantile paralysis](#) (polio, the [infectious disease](#) which paralyzed President Franklin Roosevelt) was [spreading](#) among [children](#) in America and [elsewhere](#).

The President, who often stood while giving speeches, was [rarely photographed](#) in his wheel chair - as we see him (in 1941) [with Ruthie Bie](#) (whose sister, Wendy, was also a polio victim).

Howard, a somewhat sickly child, benefited from his [summers](#) at the Outdoor School. He would return home in much better condition than when he left. But at [camp](#), Howard was around other children. Other children had germs.

In the summer of 1916, Howard's father (Howard Robard Hughes, Sr.) wrote to [Dan Beard](#):

I thought these clippings [reporting the rapid spread of infantile paralysis] might be of interest as the clippings show how easily the violent germs are carried even by a well person.

Fear of germs, and what they could do to him, had deep - ultimately paralyzing - roots in Howard's life.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Aviator>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Aviator>



Allene Hughes - Mother of Howard Hughes

Image online, courtesy findagrave.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allene-Hughes-Mother-of-Howard-Hughes>



Polio - Social Distancing before the Vaccine

Image depicting a scene in New York City, in 1916, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Polio-Social-Distancing-before-the-Vaccine>



FDR in His Wheelchair

Photo online, courtesy FDR Library. The picture was taken by President Roosevelt's friend, Margaret "Daisy" Suckley.

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Dan Beard Camp Ceremony

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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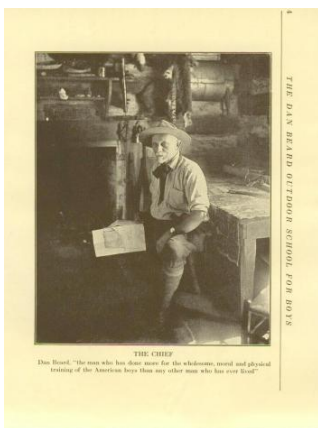


Howard Robard Hughes, Sr.

Image online, courtesy the [American Oil & Gas Historical Society](http://AmericanOilandGasHistoricalSociety.com).

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Dan Beard: Camp Leader

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Aviator

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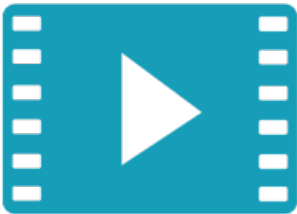
Preventing Polio with Salk's Vaccine: "Unconditional Surrender"

"Unconditional Surrender," a film about polio and the first preventive vaccine, is online courtesy Library of Congress.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Preventing-Polio-with-Salk-s-Vaccine-Unconditional-Surrender->



Jonas Salk - "Could You Patent the Sun?"

Clip from Edward R. Morrow interview with Dr. Jonas Salk, online courtesy [Global Poverty Project](#).

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