

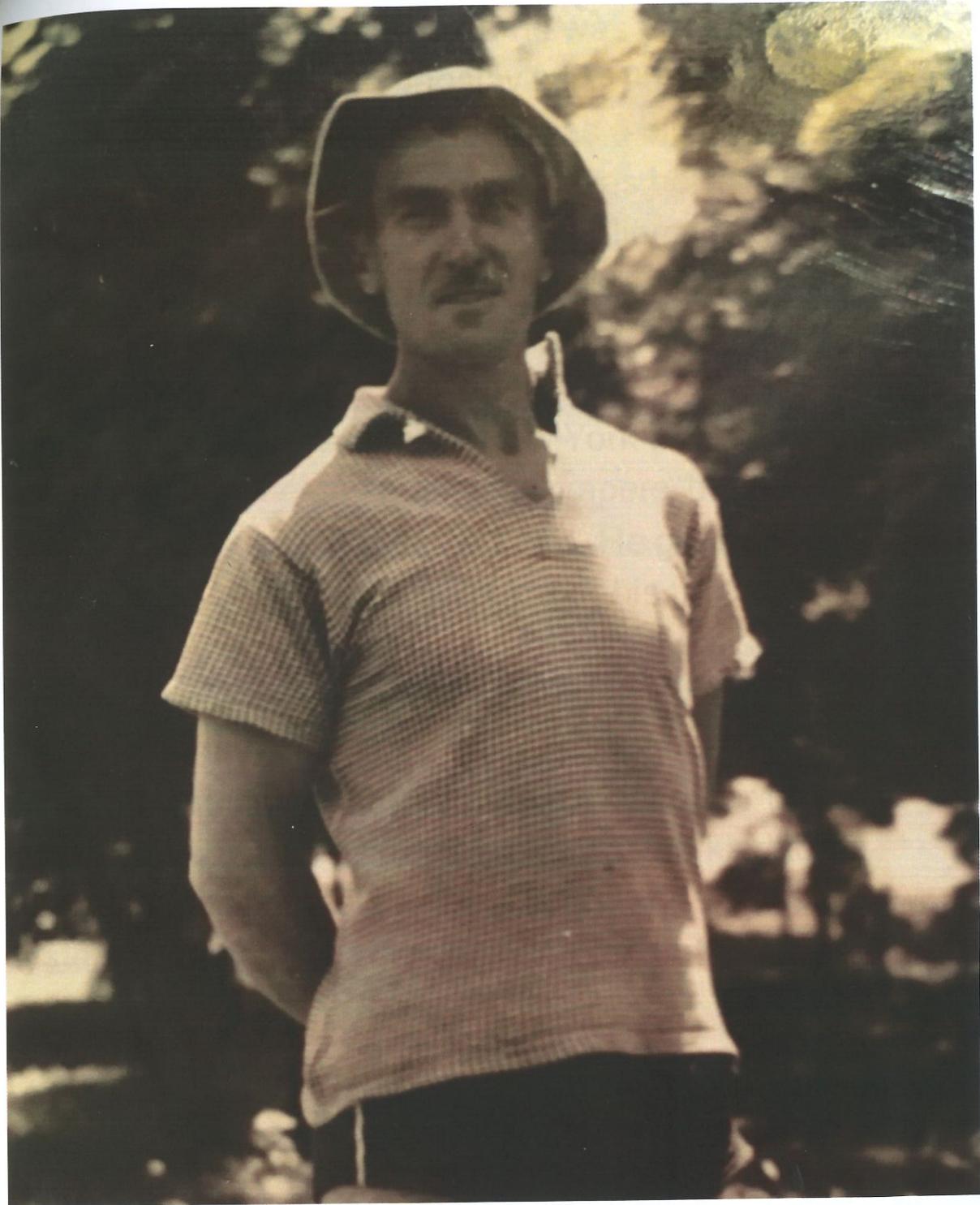
3rd Grade
3rd Place Winner

MY GREAT GRANDFATHER, ERMINIO HERO

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My great grandfather's name was Erminio Hero and he was born in Fiume, Yugoslavia in 1904, along with two sisters and four brothers. There was a big earthquake that wiped out two cities soon after he was born. He once tried to join the army by going to the front line and asking if he could join, so he walked by foot there which was 60 miles but only to be sent back. He also got into a fight with a warlord and his family told him to leave or the warlord might kill him. So he went to New York and became a rigger and also helped build skyscrapers, but could not speak English when he came there. He got married five times, twice to the same person, but his first wife was named Francine and was an alcoholic. He also wrote an autobiography, was a shepherd and was in a union. He was very fit and could beat my dad in races on the beach when he was about 70 and had one daughter (my grandmother). When he retired he was so kind to do volunteer work with disabled children and made a pully system for them. He sadly died in Florida though.

My brother and I both visited where our great grandfather lived in Croatia (it used to be part of Yugoslavia). We went to a beach there and found a sheep skull and took off its horns for a souvenir. My dad thinks the sheep skull is from one of the great-grandchildren of the sheep our great grandfather had herded.



I felt a connection to my great grandfather because I want to have an adventurous, physically fit, active life just like him. The most valuable information I learned from connecting with this photograph is seeing how I kind of look like him too!