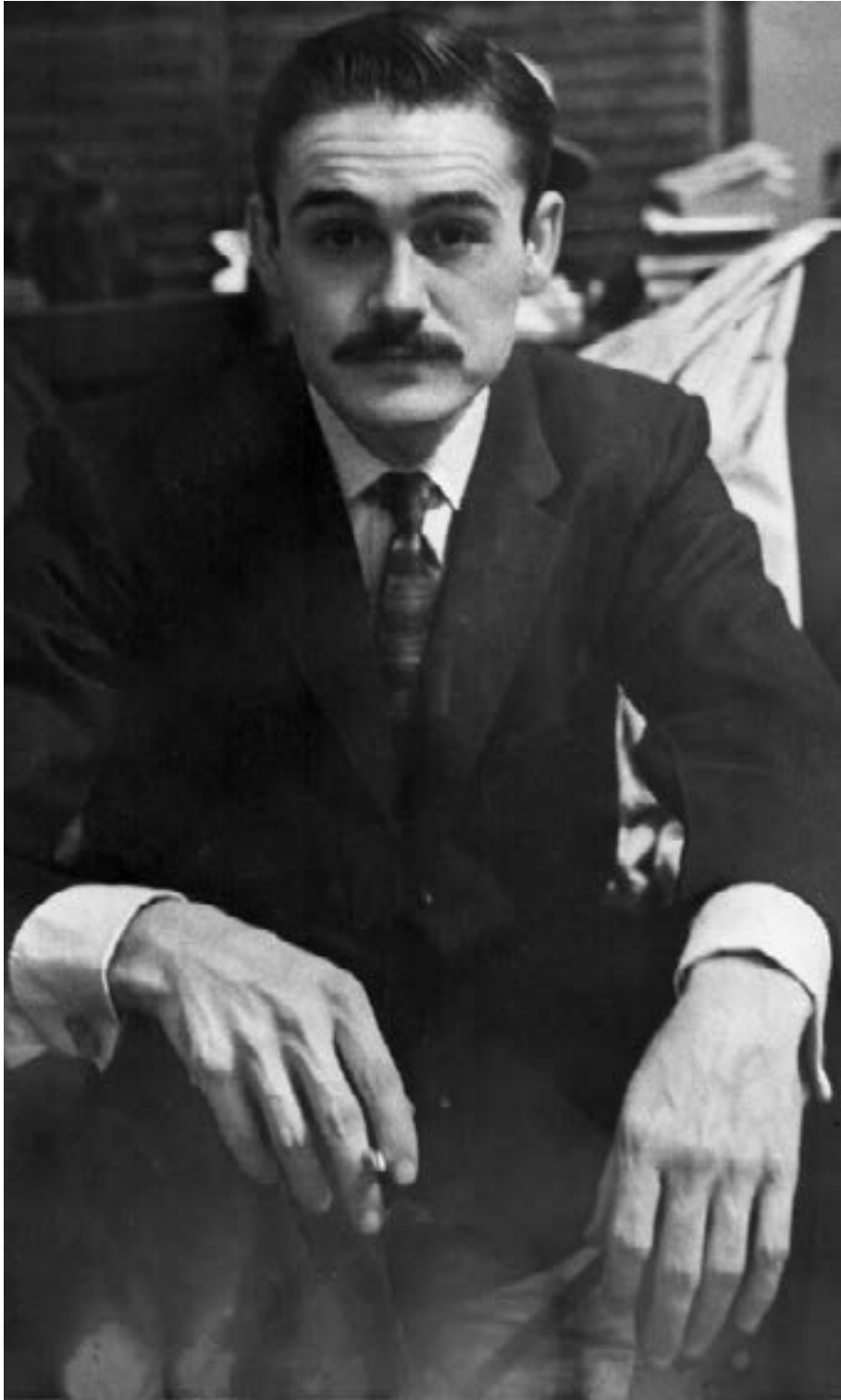


# DUANE ZALOUDEK

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# EARLY WORKS

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A discussion between Duane Zaloudek and Brett Littman  
Recorded between June and December 2014

**BL:** *Duane, can you tell me a bit about your life as a child?*

**DZ:** I was born on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1931 in the middle of the Dust Bowl, in Texhoma, Texas, near the Oklahoma border. My father had been blown out in the Dust Bowl so he went to work for the railroad feeding cattle for the railroad hands. They put a couple of old box cars on a siding and he and my mother and my older sister, who was a year and a half older than I am, and another couple, made homes in these two box cars on the siding near where they were feeding the cattle. I was born with the help of a midwife, and about six days later, when my mother was able to travel we left. My father had an old Ford Model T in those days and we drove six hours or so to where my grandfather lived. It was a large farm ranch that had both cattle and wheat. My father and mother moved into a house about a mile and a half away.

When my youngest sister was born, because the country doctor came out to take care of the birth without sanitizing or anything like that, she got an infection of some sort and she died. I was nearly two years old then and my father arranged for my two sisters and me to live with my grandparents. I lived there until I was nine years old, with one exception. My father remarried briefly and I moved back to Enid, Oklahoma that was the largest town about 12 miles away. This lady was a little hard on us kids, so he divorced her and I went back with my grandparents again until he married the woman he stayed with for the rest of his life.

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