

I REMEMBER SEABROOK-----5TH GRADE 1944-45

I remember the excitement I felt when I went to school that year. I had attended Seabrook School since I was five years old, arriving each morning on the school bus that picked me up in front of my house on the Vineland Pike. The school consisted of grades kindergarten through eighth---one classroom for each grade and a classroom for the kids with special needs.

Suddenly everything had changed. There were TWO fifth grades. Not only that, but the classrooms were half filled with strangers! Unheard of in this small farming community where we had all known each other our whole lives, traipsing across the fields to play in each other's houses.

I have few memories of the new boys in our class, but the girls were absolutely fascinating to me. They had black, shiny hair and the whitest of teeth. Comparing their features to my unruly blond pigtails and freckled face, I thought they were downright beautiful! And they were so sophisticated! Now, of course, I realize they must have been a bit wary of us, but this wariness translated itself into sophistication in my eyes.

My main source of envy, however, revolved around their social lives; e.g., their community center. I remember thinking how wonderful it was that they could play basketball together and meet each day after school to do all sorts of wonderful things. Of course, at that age I was too insensitive to realize their lives were not idyllic. I didn't think about the size of their houses, only that they were lucky to be so close to each other. I wish now we had all been wiser and could have talked about these things.

Finally, one silly but fun memory: Nakako mixed Koolade with sugar and would pour handful out to each of us on the playground!  
Delicious!

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