

"I REMEMBER SEABROOK"

The following message was received via email on Monday, January 31, 2000 from Shirley (Stotz) Pillow who was a Seabrook Grammar School and Bridgeton High School classmate of Laye (Ikeda) Nagahiro. The email is a result of Elaine Laws' efforts to get Shirley to write an "I Remember Seabrook" article. Laye was successful in getting Elaine to write one which is on file. Through emails received from Elaine, Laye found out that when we first arrived in Seabrook, she was told by her parents not to ask us children about what had happened to us and why we came to Seabrook (we were 9 years old at the time). That was the type of respect the families in Seabrook and surrounding Bridgeton area had so that we could have "A New Beginning." After over 50 years Elaine had the courage to ask what happened. Growing up with these two classmates brings back many wonderful memories.

Hi Laye,

Elaine Glendon Laws tells me that you are writing about Seabrook. I must admit that I needed to refresh my memory with my photo album. My earliest pictures were in 1947. There was quite a lot of snow. My sisters and I were building forts in our backyard. The first harmonica band was organized in 1947, probably by Fanny Cowell but she is not in the picture (see Pillow, Shirley 004). You are there along with my sister, Elaine, and me. May Day of 1948 was quite memorable because I was in a Japanese dance with my Japanese friends. I remember that the kimono was so extremely tight that it was hard to breathe. Five of us were wearing bobby socks and saddle shoes while the other five girls had the proper footwear (see Ikeda, Albert 025).

We went to Valley Forge with our seventh grade class and Mrs. Fox (see Pillow, Shirley 003). She was such a great teacher. Twelve of us did a presentation on alcohol--useful outside the body and harmful inside the body (see Ikeda, Albert 027). Do you remember? I believe that was the eighth grade with Mrs. Craner. You are in the picture. If you would like copies of some of the pictures, we can try to scan them (see Pillow, Shirley 001 and 002).

Our daughter who lives in Cape Cod is expecting her third child any day. She has 2 little girls and this one will be our first grandson. We are thrilled! We expect to go up there for a week when the baby comes to help out.

Hope some of this information was helpful. Keep in touch.

As ever, Shirley

Shirley (Stotz) Pillow

Previous resident of Upper Deerfield Township, graduate of Seabrook Grammar School 1949 and Bridgeton High School 1953, now a resident of 815 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-2122

January 31, 2000