

I Remember Summertime

I remember summertime in Seabrook when school was out and I was too young to pick beans or mow lawns. I remember the games we used to play which were played only in Seabrook. Games like Jin-tori, Espanella, Sink the Battleship, Chicken Fights, and Annie, Annie Over ...Pigtail...Annie, Annie Over. Jan Ken Po was always used to choose up teams or settle disputes because we didn't have too many coins to flip. I especially remember warm, summer evening "Jin-tori" games by the Child Care Center. Sometimes it seemed as if every school-age kid was there to play this uniquely Seabrook version of Prisoner's Base/Capture the Flag. I don't recall how teams were chosen but teams consisted of boys and girls of all ages. Each team would congregate around its home base - either a telephone pole or tree, and try to capture opposing team members by leaving their base after the opposing player left his/her base. This, of course, led to numerous arguments of who was "fresher" and, thus, had the right to capture the opposing player. Once captured, they were put in "prison" where the newest prisoner was placed at the prison base and a line of prisoners extended toward their home base hoping to be freed by their fellow team member. There were no boundaries and I remember games when two or more players would take off on a chase and not be back until the game was over, never knowing if one were captured before the game ended. This was one of the few games where boys and girls participated equally without separate teams for each sex. On those hot, muggy summer nights, no one wanted to be indoors and with all the kids outside playing in the safety of the Seabrook boundaries, parents probably welcomed the games as much as the children.

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