

SEABROOK MEMORIES

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Seabrook resident 1945 - 1953
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I remember living in a 3-room, gray bungalow in Hoover Village. The Ichinaga's and Shiba's lived near us. In the middle of the kitchen was a black potbellied stove to keep us warm during the cold winters. It's a wonder none of us five kids (ages 9, 8, 5, 3, and 1) got burned. I remember lying in the snow and moving our arms and legs to make "angels."

We had an ice box and the "ice man" would deliver a huge block of ice. There was no bathroom in our house. We had to go to another building for the bathroom, therefore many families had a chamba (Japanese version for the word chamber pot). The "women" was on one side and the "men" was on the other. The shower area was like a gym. . .no privacy. The toilet section (about five in a row) was on a little platform with a couple of steps. There were partitions but no doors. I remember having to push the toilet seats down, holding it down with our hands when we were through, and then running away because of the loud flushing sound it would make as the toilet seats went up again.

I remember our first experience with "Trick or Treat" when a white boy came knocking at our door and my mother not knowing what to do. A few years later, everyone knew about Halloween.

Our family moved to the "apartments" (a long, white, one-story building with different colored front doors) when I was eight years old. We had a large kitchen, two bedrooms, living room, and a bathroom. Six units made up each row of apartments. My sister, Yaeko, went to the Community House for my parents to pay the monthly rent of \$30. We had a red front door, our neighbor the Morita's, had a green door, the Ono's next to them had a blue door, the Shiba's next to them a red door, the Kawashiri's next to them a green door, and on the end the Nakatani's a blue door. I remember my father changing the storm windows and door to screens when the weather got warmer. Each unit had a coal bin next to the porch in front. The Woodruff Coal Company delivered the coal which was used to make our hot water. I remember the pipes making a loud gurgling sound if one of the families in our apartment forgot to close the vent from their stove. The families in our apartments went in

together to buy a lawn mower which we shared. I remember the beautiful green lawns. (We didn't have to worry about a water bill.)

I remember the driver of the Menz Brother's Cleaners letting Joyce Shiba and me ride in his truck while doing his delivery in our neighborhood.

I remember walking to school and everyone standing in line to go into the school when the bell rang. I remember my third grade teacher, Mrs. Franz, keeping Kashi Mukoda and me in the classroom during recess and making us write the word "quarrel" over and over for not knowing how to spell it. I remember our class giving Mrs. Lowe (fifth grade teacher) a baby shower. My gosh, her son must be 43 years old now!

Friday nights the girls played basketball in the Community House gym. Georgene Noda, Mitsuko Ogata, Miki Iwata, Reiko Nakawatase, Chizuyo Hada, Hide Kazaoka, Judy Nagahiro, Elsie Inouye, and Ann Yorizane were the "Pandas." Theresa Mukoyama, Jeane Yorizane, Kimi Nakashima, Kiku, Iku and Sada Kazaoka, Emi Kaneshiki, Marie Nagahiro, and Bonnie Norimatsu were the "Bobbysoxers." We didn't get to run back and forth the entire court like the girls do today. Our forwards played on one half the court and the guards on the other half. We were allowed only three dribbles and then had to pass the basketball to another player.

I remember how Mr. Omura (the grandfather), Mr. Mukoda, Mr. Morita, Mr. Shiba had a vegetable garden in back of our apartment. Each of them had a different way for irrigating their garden and I remember Mr. Morita's was so neat. Because everyone wanted to water their gardens everyday during the early mornings, my father put a ":Y" attachment on our backyard hose bib.

Miss Shizuko Kajikawa would have Bible Study at her home once a week after school. I don't know why none of the guys went. I remember Kimi Nakashima, Theresa Mukoyama, Miki Iwata, Jean and Ann Yorizane, Georgene Noda, Reiko Nakawatase, and Mitsuko Ogata memorizing Bible verses, chapters at a time. On our birthdays she would bake us her special birthday cake.

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I remember my mother packing a bento lunch and my father driving our family to the beach during the summer. We would usually meet the Shiba's at Stone Harbor..

I remember my family (Mom, Dad, Yaeko, Shirley, Eddie, Ronnie, and me) leaving Seabrook on December 21, 1953. It had just begun to snow and the last family we said good-bye to was the Mukodas. I was 12 years old.