

At the suggestion of Laye Ikeda Nagahiro, a Bridgeton High School classmate of mine, I have an "I Remember" to submit. Our family has always lived in Upper Deerfield and I attended Seabrook Schools (there was only one school in the early years) and remember the coming of the Japanese Americans in 1944, as well as all of the subsequent beneficial effects of the community of Seabrook.

I REMEMBER SEABROOK SCHOOL

It was 1944 and I was in the 4th grade at Seabrook School when the Japanese Americans arrived. It was a terribly exciting time in the school when the student population increased almost 50% overnight. The whole atmosphere changed and the building programs followed. I have always thought that the quality of education was a direct result of this expansion and led to Upper Deerfield schools being recognized as the best in this area during that period of time. Whether recognizing it or not at the time, the diversity of the population that was Seabrook and Upper Deerfield township gave us an invaluable education and preparation for adult life in the diverse world we continue to live in.

This went hand-in-glove with the hey-day of Seabrook Farms at its most productive period. We grew up on a farm that contracted with Seabrook Farms for peas and bush lima beans and this led to a great increase in activity on our farm. We had two of the large bean viners that Seabrook utilized for this operation right on our farm and it was continually exciting to be connected in this way with the great operation that was Seabrook Farms, and was yet another way in which we experienced diversity in the workforce on our own farm. This background had a material role in developing the principles for operating our business, from that time and into the 21st century.

Finally, I remember my eighth grade graduation from Seabrook and thinking at that time that nothing could ever be more wonderful than this school experience, and that I didn't really want it to be over. Of course, it never was really over as we all moved on to Bridgeton High School, where the students from Upper Deerfield distinguished themselves in that school environment and beyond. I truly believe that our lives were shaped in a great way to the diverse experience that was Seabrook. It was a great time to be growing up.

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