

**Jane Dunbar, Oak Grove Parent/volunteer in the 1970s  
Current Oak Grove student grandparent and neighborhood resident  
Interview Date: March 2002**

My name is Jane Dunbar, I'm the mother of six all who went to Oak Grove School and we've lived here 31 years. Did you hear me?

**I'm Anna Cook ..., what were you like .....**

I thought this was on a guide to Oak Grove School. When I was in fifth grade I didn't live in Georgia. I lived in Illinois. So do you want to know more about Oak Grove School or—I thought you wanted to know more about what it was like here.

**What was the school like long ago?**

31 years ago when we moved here the school was exactly like it is now, except these were all classrooms and the media center was in the middle hall and we did not have a kindergarten or a preschool. Dekalb County did not have public kindergarten. So my children had to go to church kindergartens, because there was not a program here in Dekalb County. So it started with first grade and you went here through seventh grade.

**What was the neighborhood like and who ... lived...?**

My neighborhood is pretty much the same. All these houses in this area were built between 30 and 40 years ago and the children would walk to school. The only ones that rode the bus had to be outside of two miles. So like where I live now, my children all walked to school and they came from Grand Prix and crossed over and came up North Oakland, the back half. The children all walked together. There was never any worry about your children walking to school. It was very, very safe. But all these homes have been here except for these new ones that you see on Oak Grove Road.

**Is the Oak Grove area safe to you?**

I feel it is very safe. I would never worry about having my grandchildren walk in the neighborhood, but at night I probably would not let them walk.

**My name is Vanessa Ford and ... did you ever go to Oak Grove?**

No, I did not. I lived in Illinois.

**What is your favorite part of your neighborhood?**

I think the favorite part of my neighborhood is that when my children were growing up there were lots of other young families and so our children always had neighbor children to play with, to walk to school with and we didn't have as many after school activities as you children have now. Children would play a lot at home and not have something every afternoon like my grandchildren seem to have. I think the people, the friendships that were made and I think your parents will tell you the same thing, your friends become your children's friends' parents. Because they get to know them through the children. But our neighborhood has changed a bit now we are one of the only families that have been there that long and we are seeing new young families with children that will come to Oak Grove School moving into our neighborhood and it's fun to have little people in our neighborhood again.

**... when you were a child, do you still keep in touch with?**

Yes, I have a best friend that I've known since we were in kindergarten together. Well, just either through telephone or letters and she lives in the area where I grew up. I was the one that moved away, so I would see her when I would come to visit. Like you probably go to visit grandparents and to see aunts and uncles.

**I'll ask ... if you don't mind. You mentioned that the children, when your kids were coming up didn't have as many after school activities and the kids played in the neighborhood. What did they do? What kind of games did they play?**

They would have big kick the can games and they would play street hockey and they would play softball and they would go in the cul-de-sac because we have a cul-de-sac across the street because we always thought they were safe and we didn't have a whole---there were not a lot of cars that came down our street. It was just the people that lived there and occasional maintenance people that were repairing things, but we didn't worry about fast cars.

**Where were you born?**

I was born in Chicago, Illinois.

**What was your first job in Dekalb County?**

I've never been employed in Dekalb County. I've just been a mother. I volunteered at Oak Grove School and Lakeside School.

**Did your children go to Lakeside?**

Yes. All six of my children went to Lakeside.

**Did they all go to Oak Grove?**

Yes, they all went to Oak Grove. The oldest one who is Katie's mother started here in fifth grade.

**Did they have Shamrock?**

I'm sorry?

**Did they have Shamrock?**

No, Shamrock was a high school.

**Really.**

We had Coral Wood Elementary School and then that became a Special Ed school while my children were still here at Oak Grove.

**What volunteer work did you do at Lakeside and Oak Grove?**

Well at Oak Grove my two youngest children were quite small and so I did more like room mother type things, but once they were in school I was a very, very active volunteer for all the teachers and I would take all--schools did not have laminating machines and the teachers would like to have their things laminated. So I would gather all the Oak Grove teachers laminating things and go over the county office and I would spend a whole morning running the teachers things and bringing them back here for them. Then I would also do bulletin boards. I did the sunflower bulletin and teacher's bulletin boards for the different holidays and I would use the overhead projector and I would then color them or chalk them. Then I would take them and laminate them and there was a whole collection of all of my letters and all of my pictures and Ms. Stewart---I don't know if you remember Ms. Stewart when she was here, the librarian. She was very distressed one fall because they had cleaned out the back of the stage and someone had thrown all of my bulletin board things away. But one of the biggest things and one of the biggest accomplishments that I felt that I did for Oak Grove School was in 1976, which was the year of the bicentennial and we put on a production here at Oak Grove School that involved children from every single grade. Any child that wanted to be in it could be in it in some way performing, or as stage crew or helping. The mothers, we did all the costumes and we did the history of the United States and we had parents---we did all the backdrops were done on the floor in the cafeteria. We had a mother that was very artistic and she would draw them in for us and then all the parents and all the kids would help paint them and we put on this production and the Superintendent of Schools was so impressed that he allowed schools from the county to come and we were able to perform this for other schools and they came to see our show.

Oh golly, I know---well one was Heritage, which is no longer a school and Briarlake and Sagamore. Mainly more schools around our area. Because when our children were here we did not have the M to M bussing. We had none of that extra traffic here at the school and the children didn't have---children from the school went home, they didn't have a lot of children that had to be transported long distances. So I feel that was one of my greatest accomplishments. Somewhere in the library there should be a scrapbook of our show of this---of the Bicentennial show in 1976.

#### **What about Lakeside?**

And at Lakeside I was very involved with my children. You know when you go to high school your children don't want you to be there a lot. They don't want mom there. So I did a lot of things that didn't actually you know involve my children. I would help with selling tickets when they were having things. But I also did the Ms. Lakeside program for 17 years. I helped with the Ms. Lakeside Pageant.

#### **That's a beauty pageant.**

It was not a beauty pageant, it's the all around pageant for any senior girl at Lakeside that may participate and then there were at that time eight girls chosen from each grade level, which at that time was 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. They in turn would choose a boy from their class to be their escort and they would do a dance number and be presented and then the senior girls would do a talent and they would model in a long dress, but there were no bathing suits. It was not a beauty pageants. One of the very biggest criteria was that they had to be a very good student.

#### **Were any of your daughters in it?**

And one of my girls won Ms. Lakeside. And all my girls were in Ms. Lakeside as courts.

#### **Who won it?**

Well, every year there is a new winner and at Lakeside if you go in the main office at Lakeside there are two big plaques and it lists all of the Ms. Lakesides from 1968 to the present and the year that they reigned as Ms. Lakeside.

**What year did your daughter win it?**

My daughter was in let me think---in 1988. My youngest daughter.

**What was her name?**

Her name is Krista.

**...Beth**

Beth was---yeah, well, Beth didn't win Ms. Lakeside she won the congeniality and the talent.

**They still have that contest.**

Mm-hmm. And at the time that I was involved with it I helped another mother from Oak Grove and Lakeside, Joan Milsap that was very involved and she got me involved and they moved to the northern end of the town and I got---I just kept being involved and finally I retired two years after my last child left Lakeside.

**What do you think is the hardest thing that you helped out with?**

The most difficult was the Bicentennial here at Oak Grove because it involved so many children and they all had costumes, they all had dance numbers and it was a wonderful production and we had a wonderful man that was our director who loved working with children, his name was called Jim Ray James. Very, very talented and he went on to head the Doraville Children's Theater and we were very fortunate to have him because we didn't have very much money. We couldn't pay for this and this was something that I think impressed the children and they learned the history while being able to act the history.

**Who was the principal at the time when you did the Bicentennial?**

It was Mr. Jones. Bill Jones and he was terrific. He would---and the county was very supportive because we were having to take children out of classes to practice at times. He felt that this was a very educational program and he wanted the children---any child that wanted to be in it could be in it. There were some children that didn't want to do that and that was fine. But we were able to take children---sometimes the teachers were not real happy having us take them out of class, but they were very, very pleased when the program was put on and they saw how wonderful it was and how much the children enjoyed it. Because we did it for the children.

**How has like the school and the community changed ...?**

Well I think the M to M program certainly changed the children---the neighborhood because we didn't have all neighborhood children anymore. And I think that---another thing I think that more mothers are working than were working when my children were young and so they had to provide after school---more after school programs for the children and there was more having children bussed to after school things that they weren't when my children were young.

**And you mentioned the M to M program, what's that?**

M to M, it's called Majority to Minority or Minority to Majority so that children in the south end of the county could come to schools in the north end of the county and children here could go to the south end of the county. So there was a lot of bussing and it became difficult because of the bussing situation.

**And we still have that today, right?**

No, it was court ordered---the end of the M to M program I think was a year ago. It is no longer in effect.

**Did the people who like um---like we have some people here who are from Lithonia and...**

Well, that's the south end of the county, right. Well they still can come here, but at their own expense. They are not---

Right.

**How many grades were there?**

At Oak Grove when our children were here it was first grade through seventh grade. Then you graduated and went to Lakeside in eighth grade. There were no middle schools. The county didn't have money for the middle schools at that time. The county has grown a great deal in 30 years and so that's why they can offer you all now these new facilities and also nationwide middle schools are very much thought to be important and that you all need middle schools.

**Were there field trips back then?**

Oh we had lots of field trips. You were allowed lots of field trips and I did accompany and help the teachers with field trips. Most of the time it was Fernbank, but sometimes we got to do some pretty fun things.

**How much did houses use to cost in this neighborhood?**

I have to tell you that this neighborhood not right here in Oak Grove---well I guess I probably could, I'd say all these little houses that are behind the ranch style houses, because this neighborhood is older than the neighborhood where I live, but all these houses could be purchased for \$30,000 and now they are going for \$250,000 to \$300,000.

**Did---have they added like a lot more on---a lot like---a lot more classrooms on?**

No. No, they've probably reduced them because Oak Grove was very full when we moved here. It was a very, very sought after area because Lakeside was a new high school and was considered one of the top high schools in the whole county, which it still remains today.

**Did they have any trailers?**

No, we had no trailers.

**Did you have a gym then?**

No, we never had a gym. We always had to ---

**Did any of the schools have a gym?**

Only the high schools. And it was our understanding when my children graduated from here that they were going to put a gym in the middle here. But I understand now the county finally approved it and they are going to have one on the far side of the building down near the---down near the playground.

**Were there any ... to join a clubs at the school?**

Clubs?

Yes.

Yeah, of course the scout groups used to meet here too and they had after school P.E. programs where you could stay and the P.E. teachers would---and they had---we had an art teacher and she was wonderful. There was an art program and we had a marvelous music teacher. So the children were able to get art, music and P.E.

**Who was the music teacher?**

Ms. Rossville. She was marvelous and very, very talented.

**... strings and band?**

Yes, they always had strings and band as well. They would have their recitals---they would put on programs here for the parents in the cafeteria.

**Were the neighborhoods ---that's when---when you were talking about the school, were those neighborhoods kind of like everybody knew everybody?**

Mm-hmm.

**... town ... recognized?**

I didn't hear you.

**If a stranger came in, like if someone was on vacation or something and they came in would everybody know it and it was kind of like one big happy family or something?**

Yes, we had your neighborhoods like the three streets behind Oak Grove most everybody knew one another and in my neighborhood most everybody knew one another and yet, but in my particular neighborhood when we moved there ours was the youngest family. So a lot of them were high schoolers and our children would love to watch---the girls would practice for the drill team and the cheerleading and they would hear the band from Lakeside and Lakeside was very, very---I guess I would say it was much bigger than it is now. There were many, many more students and it was very---there were lots and lots of things going on at Lakeside then more so than now I think.

**Did they ever had like any people .....because now we have like those little locks on the doors and we know ... people coming in?**

I don't think we ever worried about that. You know I think we were probably ignorant. We didn't think that that could ever happen. People just didn't worry like they do now because we have to worry now. We didn't feel we had to worry when my children were young and I'm sorry that it is---it's a---people are afraid now.

**Why did you move here from and where you lived and when did you ..... before coming here?**

Well I lived and grew up in Illinois and my husband and I met at Northwestern University and he finished medical school and we went to Boston and then we went to Germany and came to Kentucky and were recruited to Emory University Hospital where my husband was on the staff and he stayed at Emory until he retired two years ago.

**What's your favorite part about Oak Grove ...?**

I just love the school and I love the teachers and you know I'm still very close to some of the teachers who are retired. In fact, eight of us had lunch last month. Some of the original teachers when Oak Grove School started.

**Who were they?**

There was Mrs. Smith who ended up being the lead teacher and she taught seventh grade. The highest grade was seventh. And Ms. Henry. Ms. Smith was all the Social Science projects, oh my goodness and she was really tough. Then Mrs. Henry was math. And Mrs. Rainey was fifth--- was sixth grade and she was Math. Mrs. Gartrell was third grade. Ms. Everett, you all remember Ms. Everett and Ms. Judge, they were first grade. Let's see who am I---oh and Mrs. Cohen was fourth grade and she became a very, very special friend to me and she left Oak Grove to be a lead teacher at another school. And so we lost her.

**Do you know what school?**

She went to Brockett and now she is retired. I think that's why I loved Oak Grove is because I loved the teachers and many of the teachers lived in this neighborhood so their children went here.

**Did they ever have a blue ribbon school award?**

They didn't have that then. No, they did not.

**Did they have ... awards?**

I don't remember getting---I don't remember that. If they gave any national or state awards to schools at that time.

**... when your kids went here ... describe different things like .....**

Well they didn't---they had like two teachers for two of the primary grades and then I think there was three teachers through say fifth through seventh. It depended on the enrollment and how many students and whether we needed three seventh grade homerooms or two seventh grade homerooms. So that was---

**Did you ... anything to the school while ya'll was there that .....might still be here?**

I just know that we had a son that was killed in a tragic accident and the Oak Grove PTA and the Oak Grove teachers started a memorial for him here and there are books. We had shelf for Mike that had his name on it and then Ms. Stewart had to---the county required that the books all be in the---in order to the dewy decimal system I guess, so the books are scattered, but there must be probably a hundred books here that have a plate inside that says in memory of Michael Dunbar. So that's what's left here besides my bulletin board things that were lost and we also had a plaque in the cafeteria that was done of the bicentennial. An eagle, a big brown eagle that was above the stage and I believe they have taken that down.

**Like do you remember like, what's your like best memory of Oak Grove like with your kids?**

My best memory just that they were happy here and they learned a lot and were very successful in high school and in college and also very successful now. They are all married and I have 11 grandchildren.

**Did they get ...**

Yes. Not in the primary grades, but they did in the other grades. And as I told you, Ms. Smith was very tough on that Social Science project. And the parents, we never looked forward to that. That was a lot of trouble.

**Did you have to like---my mom---my mom once I had my mom called it a ... reception or something---did you ever have to struggle with one of your kids like homework like a lot?**

Yes, but with six children the older ones would help the younger ones.

Oh.

So---and they were probably smarter than I was.

**Were the roads paved like they are now or were they dirt?**

Yes. No, there were no dirt roads here 30 years ago, they were all paved.

**Did they like---like on some of the roads we have street lights, but there are some roads with no street lights...**

No, there were always street lights here. This was a pretty established neighborhood 30 years ago. Running out of questions?

**What's the biggest change that you have noticed in 30 years? Either ... or in terms of the neighborhood.**

Well I don't see that the school has changed much, they've shifted things around. We had a library, we did not have a media center because we didn't have computers. There were no T.V.'s in the rooms and I think probably the biggest change has been the computers that you children have that my children had to learn in college and after they were out of college. Because they were just coming into high school when our children were getting out of high school. I can't see that the neighborhood---yes, I must take that back. The neighborhood is changing tremendously with the amount of building where they have taken parcels of land that had one house and all of a sudden there is six big, big expensive homes and our county hasn't changed the roads. So it's meant that the traffic has increased tremendously. And as one of you asked about safety, that is a factor now because there are many more cars and they go much faster. So I think that has been the biggest change in our neighborhood is the increase in the number of big, big homes.

**Going back to the library, after Ms. Stewart left we got a new librarian ... and she ... about the Dewey Decimal System ... just how it has changed over the years and how it used to be when you would open a drawer and you would go through it and look something up because they didn't have computers, did you have to go through---like go through the drawers and find it and pull it out?**

Mm-hmm. And I had to do that when I was a child too.

... classrooms...

Yes, this was two rooms in here and the library was in the center.

**How old were you when ...**

How old was I? Let me think now. We moved here in 1971, I was 33 years old and my youngest child was eight months old.

**Were your kids able to walk to school?**

Yes. They kind of came through neighborhoods and came up the back path there that is still there.

**How long did it usually take them to walk?**

Oh ten minutes, fifteen minutes. And they would all walk together so there was safety in numbers. You never really worried. And then when my children were in patrol they would stay afterward and there would be other children in the neighborhood that might be a patrol and they would have someone to walk home. So they didn't always come home together, but they usually left together in the morning.

**Was the end of patrols still 3:15 then?**

I would imagine it was about the same time. The school hours maybe have changed within a half hour, but they haven't changed that much.

**Did anyone back---you were talking about the school ... patrol in the morning ...**

Mm-hmm. All my children---they were---when patrol was in effect here they chose only like 15 students out of that grade level and they didn't have---you were their patrol for the whole year and you did it morning and afternoon and it was a real honor and then they always had their trip to Washington and they would go you know with the county---other schools and uh...

**Did they go by bus or ...**

They went by train. They always went by train. That was a big exciting trip on the train.

**What instrument did you play when you went to Oak Grove?**

I didn't go to Oak Grove.

**Well, like what instrument did you play?**

When I was growing up I played the piano and I never did excel at it so I still don't play very well.

**Hang on just a second. Sarah Lions has tracked something down for us. It's not the scrapbook from '76 but it looks like there might be some things---I don't know if there is anything in it that you recognize or.**

Let me see what the year is---yeah, this is the same timing. This is the same timing. Oak Grove Acorn, we had our newsletter.

Yeah. Mm-hmm. Oak Grove Acorn. Do you still have the Acorn?

**Yeah, but it's not...**

And then they used to I guess---I remember them posting the menu. These are all just yearbooks. Now wait a minute this is field day 1973.

**They still had field day back then?**

Mm-hmm.

**What were some things played at field day?**

Probably all the same things you do now. I mean it was relay races and there would be classroom competition and one second grade against another second grade and...

**Did the parents ever help ...**

All the parents---we did all that just like---

**Were there any others that helped you?**

I helped with field day every year and I also did the Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon every year.

**I heard you say that you helped with making those.**

I made a scrapbook for my bicentennial program that had pictures of all the costuming and everything, but I don't um...

**Do you know which year it was from?**

Yes, 1976 and this is earlier. This is---so this is an earlier book. This is '72 and '73. So there won't be anything on the Bicentennial in here.

**...Was that still ...**

Yes. That's where we had our teacher luncheons and it was nice. And then we had parents that came and took all the classrooms while the teachers came to lunch. Is that the way they still do it? I don't know. It was always on a school day like from 11:30 to 1:30 and they had volunteer parents that would be teachers so that the teachers would be free to enjoy their lunch time.

**...teachers that you met like...**

Oh that's hard to say. Because none of the teachers that were here when they were here are still teachers here. They are still in this area many of them.

**Like Ms. Everett?**

Mm-hmm. And Ms. Hale and Ms. Gartrell and they are all still living in this area.

**Did Ms. Yuman teach the ...**

No. No.

**... What instruments did your kids play?**

They never played an instrument in the school band. Two of my girls took piano, but they never played, but they were in the chorus. We had a chorus and they performed and so my children were also in the chorus.

**So they had a choice?**

Mm-hmm.

**Did they have any like Home Ec classes ...**

No. You got that when you got to Lakeside in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Home Ec was one of the required courses when you got to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**What were your children's favorite subjects?**

Mm, I think the oldest daughter, Katie's mom and my two boys liked Math the best. And I would guess one of my daughter's liked Language Arts because she likes to write and liked to do poetry, so that was probably her favorite.

**Has she written a book before?**

What's that?

**Has she written a book before?**

No, but she has written lots of poems. We would always get her to write oh for a party or something she would write the poem.

**Oh what was one of the major events ... or was there another major event that went on at the school?**

Well the bicentennial was 1776---I mean 1976 and I think that we had other events that happened. We had plays. Classrooms would do productions. I can't remember any of the really specific things, of course, they had a Christmas program and graduation was always a big event and we would always have to do our graduation in conjunction with Lakeside for the parents that had---we had to be careful what time it was because you couldn't---if you did it in the afternoon they had to be finished in enough time so that the parents could get to the Lakeside one. So that got to be complicated because there was too much going on on the same day. So I think now they have tried to stagger it so that you don't have graduation---elementary school graduation the same time as high school graduation.

**Was there anything that they didn't ask that you would like to add?**

Well, I'm trying to think, I just mainly wanted to tell them about that big production that was wonderful.

**I wish we could find the scrapbook.**

**They don't have them. They had every---'79 to '85 was the closest we got.**

I don't know whatever would have happened to it.

**Do you know any of the books that have the whole class ...**

Oh golly there were quite a few of them. Some of them were the James Harriet and some of them were---things with sports and animals because Mike wanted to be a vet.

**Do you know any like the author of some of the books?**

I'm trying to remember. Because we had many friends that donated and the PTA donated books and the main plate should be right inside the front cover. I can't think of an author right this minute to tell you. There are some from primary grade level up through the seventh grade. I don't know Megan ... sister found some books when they were here that had the name plate in them. I can't tell you anything specific. The librarian should know.

**Did they...some books, did they ever do like a memorial tree ...**

No, a picture had been donated and was in---by a famous Georgia artist and I asked about whatever happened to it and I don't know where that picture is now. It was by John ... The other thing---oh the other thing we did the year of the bicentennial is that we buried a time capsule out in front of Oak Grove School and we had a piece of wood, a piece of pine that was cut from a tree with a chainsaw so it was like this thick and it was about this round and that one my boys used to--used to I forget now what they call it. Wood burning tool. And we put on it, but unfortunately we didn't realized that even though it was varnished that the wood would disintegrate and rot. So the time capsule was buried right out near the flagpole there and we planted---the dogwood that is there was planted during the bicentennial.

**Is it still there?**

I don't know if they ever brought out the time capsule. We buried in a time capsule in 17---in 1976.

**When was it supposed to opened?**

I think it was supposed to be opened. I don't remember. There should be something here written about that and I don't remember.

**(Was it years or months...**

I was trying to think whether it was 2000 and that could have been you know last year.

I'm trying to remember several things that we put in there, but we had a time capsule and we buried it and planted that white dogwood that's there now was planted that year.

**The time capsule is somewhere near the flag pole?**

Yes. Yes.

**... time capsule is still there ... dig it up...**

Some of the teachers like---I recall Ms. Smith and Ms. Henry, those teachers might remember. They were sort of---they were you know the senior teachers here.

**We found the bicentennial book.**

What?

**We found the bicentennial book.**

You did?

Mm-hmm.

**Why don't you get around her and she can show you....**

Well let's see. I've got my glasses girls and boys.

**And I'm going to come over your shoulder where I can...**

That was Mr. Jones. He was our principal, Bill Jones, he was a really nice, nice man. This is Mrs. Rude and Mrs. Smith, I recognize these people. She still lives on ... Court and she had three children who went through Oak Grove and here is everybody probably watching the bicentennial. There's Michael Dunbar, that was my son.

**What part did he play?**

He was welcoming to the bicentennial year. But our bicentennial--our program wasn't until February. So this show is about the bicentennial year...

Okay. October.

**Was that the YMCA...**

Oh this Betty Pullen, she was a fourth grade teacher and her husband was killed in the Vietnam War and we wanted to have a bicentennial flag and she wanted to donate the flag in memory of her husband. We had--the Marine Corp came out with the Marine Reserves and they did the formal presentation of the bicentennial flag and a brand new American flag and we raised over all --the whole student body was outside in front and we sang--see here all the military and we had flags from all the different military.

**How old was the time capsule?**

Well 1976, so it would be twenty...

**What did the safety patrols wear?**

All they--they wore any school clothes and they had an orange belt. So this is when all the military came and we presented the colors and this teacher we presented--gave the flag in memory of her husband and it was a very moving ceremony and we all sang--you know American songs. Let's see. There's Ms. Everett.

**Oh my God she's young.**

Now let's see--well this is '75, because '76. Here is the recipes and food we had--oh we did we had programs here where we would cook the food from the colonial times and we would dress up and we would have the kids--the girls would wear the long skirts and linings under them and we had vests for the boys and it would be like the Spirit of '76 you know that ... we had the tri-cornered hats for them. Here we are. So we did all of the crafts for the bi--here is Mrs. Gartrell, do you remember her? And here is...

**There's ...**

There I am right here.

**That's you.**

And ... got me into Ms. ... Here I am again, see my funny hat. We dressed all the children like the bicentennial and even our principal wore a tie--a string tie. That was called a string tie. So we had volunteer people that came and did all the props from the colonial times. They had the wig and how they--and we had potters and the children had a wonderful, wonderful time with that. Here we go. This is the Christmas program. We used to always--we had costumes for everybody ... dress up. That was our chorus.

**What is that down at the bottom?**

That was one of the ... that was the Christmas flag. That was the Christmas flag we had.

This is the program, it was telling who ...

**That's a big program.**

It was a big school here at that time. We must be getting ... bicentennial was in February and here's all the pictures. We did all these backdrops, they were all hand done and they were all out of paper and they were the whole size of the stage.

**So these are like all of the stage hands?**

And that's ... and we had parents that made all the costumes and ...

**How old about would that girl be now?**

That was probably fourth grade. This is the T.V. station that came out. We invited them and we requested that they come to take...

**Did the interview you for ...**

We had---when we had the bicentennial program we had all the officials from the county and we had the---not the governor, the lieutenant governor came and we had all the congressmen from our area and they were very, very impressed.

**Did you do potluck?**

That's the only pictures...here is the Oak Grove ... and ... salute to the country. More than 200 students from kindergarten through seventh grade.

**300?**

200.

**Oh. How many kids were in the school?**

I don't remember. Probably over 300.

**So over half of the kids?**

Yeah, over half the kids. Here is more of the bicentennial. That was the whole year. We did---this is what I was talking about the Spirit of '76 where the men---... Katie.

**Oh my gosh.**

Yankee Doodle---Yankee Doodle Dandy and the boys danced.

That's my kind. ... This little girl, this would have been---oh gosh what grade would they have been in? I don't remember now.

**...do you think I look at all like Michael or Ryan?**

That's his little boys now. He does, he looks like him. Well, I guess that's it. Well, you got to see a little bit of it anyway.

I don't know whether the county would ever let ya'll do a production like that again because it took a lot of time away from classrooms, but it was a special time in our history and my children learned a great deal from studying---from being involved and it was a wonderful thing to see that many children involved and we used to use the art room and the parents we made all the Indian costumes out of burlap---I mean inexpensive fabric. We painted them and made the wigs.

**Is there anything that we didn't ask that you would like to add?**

Well, I think what I'll add now is that I'm going to be very sad because Katie will leave Oak Grove this year and my other grandchildren don't live in the area so there will not be another Oak Grove student from my family. It's---it's been a very special school.

**What was your favorite part about the school? About the whole school over all the years you have been here?**

It's a neighborhood school and wonderful families and most all the children are very, very successful. I've seen a lot of love and support and people care.

**Besides the...do you know anybody out there...do you know people that like were any of the people in the bicentennial are you still their friends now?**

You mean the parents?

**Right.**

Some of them I still see and many of the children that were in the bicentennial program are now married and are raising their children in this area whose children may come here to Oak Grove.

**So they are not here yet?**

I don't think so. I don't know of any right now, but you know. Because I forgot---I don't remember when Oak Grove was built. Lakeside's first graduating class was 1968 and that was only two years so that school was built in '66. I think Oak Grove was built in about '60. ...

I think the greatest thing about Oak Grove School is that there were always active parents and the parents were involved and there was always help here and that's why it was so successful because it was a family affair.

**We are going to have to wrap it up. I am---I just want to thank you so very, very much.**

Oh you are welcome. Well, if I can find---I still think I have some of that bicentennial stuff that we did. We just---I saved a lot of it. I still have the center pieces for a teacher luncheon that we made---we made maypole's out of different size blocks and poles because you remember you had plastic box, and circles or squares or the sticks that land, ...them anyway. I still---let me say what I was going to say when I was going to pass them all on, but the heat has really been analyzed today I'm sorry.

**You are going to keep all of that stuff that you have?**

Oh I'm willing to give it to anybody that wants it. I though Katie's mother might use it, but she never did. She had her own ideas.

**Pass it down.**

Pass it down. Okay.

**You know one thing .....a lot more women work outside the home than did when you were**

That's what I said earlier, that the mothers were always available to help. We had mothers here all the time and that was so nice because we really could help the teachers. It's harder now.

**Thanks again.**

You are welcome. It was so fun. I have lots of fond memories ... Oak Grove School.

**You kids are lucky to be able to go to such a good school.**