



Alice Comer Meyer – Class of 1944

“My fondest memory is just going to school; it was like a party. We knew everyone and had a great time. We all had friends in different classes. I had a lot of friends because of my brothers and sister. It was the best of times. I have so many good friends from our time at Southeast.”

High School Memories

I was in Knightlites skits and on the Round Table. I was Junior Class Treasurer, and I was selected most popular.

My classes focused on clothing, homemaking and secretarial skills. The war. It was pretty traumatic. Most of the boys went into the service. We would write to all of them. Hank Wilhelmsen was the first to be killed.

We lived at 3635 East 57th, just west of Swope Parkway. I had siblings who also attended Southeast:

- Joe Comer (1940) He was a great swimmer and diver. He was a lifeguard at Fairyland Park. He also scored the first touchdown for Southeast.
- David Comer (1942) David was the best dancer. He enlisted in the Air force when he was 17 and would buzz over Southeast in his plane.
- Frances Comer Conn (1946) Frannie was selected “most popular.”
- Bob Comer (1948) Bob was a cheerleader.
- Ron Comer (1951) Ron is the baby of the family; the youngest of nine.
- Our older siblings, Dorothy, Bill and Jim, attended Paseo since Southeast was yet to be built.

My memorable classes and teachers were, of course, Mr. McMillan and Mr. Powell. Mr. Thelen was the football coach. Miss Abbott was our art teacher. Robert White was a math teacher. I loved that man, but I hated math. I got an I- in algebra. Mr. White told me the reason he gave me an I- was because he could not bring himself to give me an F!

Away from school, our house was a gathering place. There were always friends there. I remember going to Nu Way and Allen’s Drive In. We went dancing at

Mary's to the juke box. We went to movies and to hear big bands. In the summer, we had picnics at Swope Park; we went swimming and on bicycle trips. I remember ice skating in Swope Park. One time, I was at the end of the "whip" and got cut beside my eye when I was hit by a skate blade. There were many sororities and fraternities (not school sponsored) that held formal dances. I was in Theta Chi Gama. We were always busy. It was great fun.

After High School

I went to work at Great Lakes Pipeline the day after graduation. My sister Dorothy worked there. I started in the "bullpen" where the secretaries worked and eventually worked for the vice president.

My career has been very interesting. I was the Prairie Village City Clerk for 10 years. Then I worked in Washington, DC, for the US Senate Commerce and Transportation Commission. During the Reagan administration, I worked for Elizabeth Dole. I was Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Kansas University and later worked as a contractor arranging speakers and special events for KU. I also worked at Shawnee Mission Medical Center part-time in a support position.

I maintain contact with so many from Southeast, so many friends. Not just in my class, but in many classes. Bob Speath, Norman Gare, Bob Ellis, Mary Rainwater, Betty Flagler. Mary Smilley was a good friend; she was Vince's sister. Charlene Lambertz was very popular; she was a cheerleader. Moe (Larry) Stealey was a runner. He lived 2 doors down from the Comers. He drove to school, and gave me a ride. Franki Rowland married Moe. My husband, Don Meyer, was in the class of 1943. He played baseball and basketball and was later in the Marines. I don't think I have missed any of our high school reunions.