



Diane Bullard Brandon – Class of 1958

"My most vivid memory is when I was accused of cheating on a typing test in Mr. Bill's class. Second week in the class he gave a ten minute typing test and I typed 93 wpm. He accused me of getting a copy of the test and typing it at home then replacing it with the school room test. I said it was my work. He sent me to principal's office, Mr. McMillan. His secretary let me type on her typewriter, called Mr. McMillan, and they agreed I typed faster and better than his secretary. He called down Mr. Bills to his office, chewed him out, and told me if I had any more trouble with Mr. Bills to let him know. "

Other High School Memories

I lived at 8376 East Oldham Drive in Hickman Mills when I attended Southeast. I was C.O.E. student my sophomore, junior and senior years, so didn't have an opportunity to be in any after school activities. I left campus at 11:30 AM every day and got on the bus to go downtown and work at Chasnoff's (a woman's store on Walnut) until 9 PM.

My most memorable classes and teachers were Miss Campbell for Homeroom and Miss Pence for Health.

I also remember that Sputnik was launched in 1955 and I remember several restaurants used this as a theme for menu items. We were still worried about nuclear bomb attacks and I seem to recall there was some discussion about building a bomb shelter on school grounds, but it never came to anything.

I worked full time as assistant window designer for Chasnoff's. When I wasn't working I was modeling--mostly photographic work for local store ads. I also danced with KC Children's Ballet Theatre and showed my horses at American Royal and other local shows.

After Graduation

I went to college for a short time, but hated the restrictive rules--Stephens College. I'd been living in an apartment on my own for three years (since summer before sophomore year) so it wasn't easy to adapt to their rules. I left at Thanksgiving break and didn't go back. I went to work as a secretary for Western Auto for about a year then married and moved to California

I've had several careers: Secretarial work morph'd (at Xerox) into sales and management. Owned/operated an interior design firm for over 20 years, and also sold real estate for a few years. Now retired from Xerox, I'm an automobile journalist.

Final Thoughts

Southeast HS in the 1950s provided an ideal public school education. It appeared to be well-funded, adequately staffed, well-maintained and there was a high level of respect for others and school property. During recent visits to the school, I was saddened to see the way the building was in disrepair and there had been so much damage done to the interiors. I now live on the West Coast in Oregon and we who live out here forget the problems so many cities in the Midwest have been faced with. It's time we all made an effort to restore and maintain our urban neighborhoods. KC was once a beautiful city, and though parts of it are still lovely, there needs to be considerable effort on the part of the locals to repair and restore their home.

I applaud all of you on the history committee for making this effort to gather memories of those who attended SE. I hope you receive many thoughtful replies.