



Sara Gaggens - Teacher 1960-1970; Physical Education and Health Education

“I have so many memories it would take a book to set them all down.”

Southeast Memories

In addition to my classes, I helped with Knightlites dance groups and I was the cheerleader sponsor and Pep Club and pom pon squad sponsor. Other responsibilities included Jousters, the teacher/student volleyball team and intramurals. Also, I was on the Policy and Procedure Committee.

I was involved with the Homecoming Queens and Attendants. I sponsored Student Council the year they revised the constitution. Went to Oklahoma with cheerleaders to ACA Cheerleading Camp - Spirit Stick tradition. Group performed at PTA national meeting, and cheerleaders and gymnasts performed at MSTA (Missouri State Teachers Association) conventions.

One of my most vivid memories was taking Pep Club and cheerleaders to Springfield for football games, returning at 1:30 or 2:00 am. Girls singing school song in front of school on return. We had three buses and only two chaperones and no seats for chaperones. We took my car, and I told each bus it was my birthday. It was October 31; my birthday was November 21. I asked all three buses to give me a birthday present by being extra good and helping the bus driver get them safely to Springfield. All bus drivers reported exceptional behavior by all students of course!

Also, to avoid getting five cakes on my birthday every year, I told each of my classes a different date for my birthday and received five cakes, one in each of the months. It was great!

I remember my junior and senior PE classes and when Forrestine Beasley lost her wig while playing volleyball. It fell off her head, and no one knew she was wearing it until it fell on the floor!

On a Personal Note

I do remember Superintendent Hazlett coming to Southeast after I had left the Juvenile Center after starting the craft program. Judge Riederer wanted me back. Superintendent asked if I was happy at Southeast. I responded, "I think I died and went to Heaven." He answered, "Then you're staying here!"

Most of the teachers I have lost contact with - Dorothy Canham became our supervisor at Board of Education. I was close to her until she passed away. Saw Ms. Berkowitz and Del Angerer at Class of 1966 45th reunion. Margot Walker and I exchanged letters after she moved to Colorado.

I conducted workshops for other PE teachers in gymnastics (hand apparatus), ribbons, balls, hoops; methods in teaching beginners volleyball.

I lived at 1418 Summit, KCMO during my time at Southeast. I worked two nights a week for City Recreation. Entered my students in weekend competitions - basketball, volleyball, field hockey, gymnastics - and tournament (we placed second); we always won trophies! Summers I worked at City Union Mission Camp for a month.

Went to Indiana University completing my masters degree in 1965.

I have a patch I designed that coaches and I wore on our red jackets to games. I can't find it right now, but when I uncover that and anything else, I will send them to you.