



Don (Bif) Speise – Class of 1942

“My most vivid high school memory is scoring the only touchdown against Central High School for a tie – 6-6.”

High School Memories

Southeast opened in 1939. I was in the freshman class.

WWII was beginning and H. Roe Bartle spoke to our assembly one day about the coming problems with Germany.

I participated in Hi Y Club and football.

The most memorable classes and teachers for me were:

Coach Patterson – football

Mr. Cross – PE

Mr. Laury – Chemistry and Physics

I lived at a number of addresses in high school:

58th & Prospect

67th & Walrond

68th & Cleveland

44th & Askew

Outside of school I played American Legion baseball, went fishing and played golf.

After Graduation

I joined the Marine Corp in 1943. I was a junior high school teacher and a coach for the Center School District.

This is a “small world” memory. I was in the Marine Detachment of the Aircraft Carrier Enterprise CV-6. My battle station was 20 mm gunner battery 6 portside just outside the pilot’s ready room. One morning in February 1945 off the coast of Iwo Jima we were called to General Quarters “man your battle stations.” This always occurred when they launched aircraft.

That morning I happened to turn and watch the pilots coming out of the ready room when all of a sudden I saw Rex Ulrickson. In shock I blurted out “Where

did you come from, Rex?" He said, "From the Saratoga" another carrier which had flight deck damage and had to land his torpedo bomber (TBF) on our carrier the evening before unknown to me. Rex went to SE and I believe graduated in 1940 or 1941 and I haven't seen him since. We both played football but we never pal-ed around with each other but knew each other.

Rex had settled into Detroit, MI, and I saw him 40 years later when Coach Patterson and I went to see him at the Little Sisters of the Poor visiting with his dad. I haven't seen him since.

When asked what message he would give to other Southeast graduates?...

Hi, Knights. It's Don Speise. Especially you, Alice Comer Meyer and Ruth Graham.