

Looking Back

My high school years started in 1964 at Dody High School in McKinney, Texas. Dody was an all black high school that serviced smaller school districts in Collin County. I remember getting on the bus at six in the morning and our 17 year old bus driver, George Hargrow picked up students from: Lavon, Nevada, Copeville, Josephine and Farmerville. I made a lot of friends; play in the band, basketball and achieved very good grades.

The schools in Texas integrated the next school year, September of 1965. Integration brought about a variety of things to the African American students. It was our opportunity for a better education and we wouldn't have to go out of town to be graduates one day. We had various fears that were hard to put into words back then.

Well let see: there was the unknown, would we be treated equally, where and how would we fit into this new world. It was scary; it felt like we were to be literally thrown into the frying pan. One of my biggest fears was getting new teachers. I wondered how would they relate to us, because in my mind the law had forced us on the white America public schools. Thus, I realized that there was some anger on each side. Looking back, I know my experiences were much better than it was for some in other school districts. I have cousins and friends who didn't enjoy being in an integrated setting in the beginning. However, my education journey was wonderful because I made new friends (that was a big deal), the teachers were helpful and nice to us. Community ISD did excellent jobs of making the African American students feel welcome and find our place in their world.

I feel that I connected with several teachers early on: Mr. Snow and Mrs. Caldwell the English teachers. My true love was playing basketball and Leland Edge was truly dedicated to the girls' basketball team. We had a couple of good seasons. I graduated from Community ISD, in May 1968 second in my class. (Never could beat Peggy Sue, but I tried and missed it by .4 of a point.) Community ISD truly worked for my family; we all went on to college and became successful individual in various careers mostly the teaching field. Our foundation was from family and education.

I will always hold Community ISD dear to my heart with high esteem; after all, I returned as an elementary teacher years later. I had the honor of working under the leadership of Eddie MacGeren and Wendell McGuire for several years. Community ISD is home for me.

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