

## *The James Neylon children remember the 1950s*

Early in 2001, Jean, Ann, Lynn, Chris, Eric and Bruce assembled some random recollections of growing up in the old neighborhood in Euclid, Ohio, on East 194 street. Some of these factoids are true; others suffer a bit from failing memories. Here's some of the stuff that was happening during the 1950s before Jean, Ann, Lynn and Chris graduated from Euclid High School.

The four heaters in the old slate-roofed house were in the master bedroom, living room corner, between the living room and dining room and the fireplace.

You entered the utility room through a trap door in the kitchen floor to access the hot water heater.

Neylons address was number five (5). The phone number was Kenmore 0587, and later KE 1-0587.

The three neighborhood baseball diamonds were at the Neylon-Cotton front yard, Fitzmaurice's backyard and the lots where Pratt and Woolgar later built houses.



Lake front house in Euclid Ohio

The fiduciary box was red; the combination was either 000 or 111.

Jim had a 16-foot Lyman lapstrake boat with Johnson 25 hp motor.

Neylon's first television was black and white, manufactured by Curtis Mathis or DeForest Sonobria. In the early 1950s, the living room rug, couch and chair were Maroon.

Jim's new car in 1957 was a black DeSoto with fins and a push button transmission. He traded in his blue 1954 Mercury with a stick shift. Before that, Jim drove a 1948, maroon Plymouth.

Larry and Margaret Vincent were thespians who visited Mrs. Cotton. Their kids were Elle and Kathy. Margaret was Mrs. Cotton's daughter.

The musician's store was Soja's on 185th street.

The Chatterbox was Jim's bar near the LaSalle theater on 185th street. Jim drank Hiram Walker whiskey and the children played shuffle bowling and ate at Friday night fish fries. Stash or Julian would serve a free beer chaser with the whiskey.

The delicatessen of boxing fame was Maxims on 185th street.

The car dealer on Lake Shore Boulevard near 185th street was Simm Brothers Buick.

Euclid's new hospital was known Euclid Glenville, then later Euclid General.

The donut shop on 185th street was Bonnie Lynn's.

The northern-most drug store on 185th street was Standard Drug. Foy's drug was further down the street.

The meat market on 185th street was Dietrich's, the grocery store, Medveds. Mrs. Fitzmaurice would order groceries from both of them by telephone.

The old movie theater on 185 was the LaSalle. In the 1950s popcorn and the matinee cost 10 cents each. If you collected 10 empty popcorn boxes, you got a free movie pass.

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The name of the 5 & 10 cent store on 185th street was probably Neisner's, but maybe Woolworth's. The radio-TV repair shop on 185 was Fitzgerald's and is still there in year 2001. The cheap clothing store at Lake Shore Boulevard and 185th street was Robert Halls. The Giant Tiger Variety Discount Store was originally on 185th street. 45 rpm jukebox out-takes were 5 cents. Giant Tiger was a sponsor of the Gene Carroll Amateur Hour on television. You could buy 12-cent hamburger and 5-cent Birch Beer at White Castle on 185th street. These marvelous small burgers came with lots of grilled onions and always dripping in fat.

You could buy seafood at Euclid Fish and poultry Euclid Poultry on 185th street, both close to Jackshaw's Chevrolet.



East 194 and Lake Erie

High School seniors went to Raimor's for yearbook photos. Jim often launched his boat at Wildwood Park, at the end of Neff road. St. Joseph's was Euclid's once-a-year football rival. It appeared that the game was rigged so each team would win on alternating years. There were eight or ten units in the apartment building at the end of 194th street. This made for efficient Halloween begging.

Mr. Humbert was a Euclid High School teacher living on 194th street and lived next to Ruby's, the coupon booklet distributor.

Mr. Shubert had an eight-foot skiff that he assembled from a kit.

Breck's drove a classic woody station wagon and lived in a smaller house next to Sherwood's, which was brick.

Grandpa Joseph Fitzmaurice was a custodian at the Euclid Police station and a garbage man.

Mr. Fitzmaurice was a high ranking AFL/CIO officer.

Bob Kelly was a policeman and lived above the Fitzmaurices.

Walter Nason worked for Humphrey's at Euclid Beach and built and raced a Hydroplane on the lake.

Ed Pratt was a plumber-builder and did some of the welding for Frizel Street Association.

Charles Shubert worked at Fisher body.

Jean Fitzmaurice hailed from Pennsylvania. One of Lynn's jobs was to redd up the house for Jean.

The horticultural greenhouse was at Leffert's.

The Fitzmaurices later moved into Frizel's house at the boulevard end of 194th street.

Rick Kayler often parked a old VW bug in front of his house.

The Elby children were Max and Lori. Lori had a major crush on Elvis Prestley.

Gail and Maurine were the Pratt's children. Their names are now Mester and Osborne.

Arthur Sherwood was an only child.

The Shubert boys were Roy and Ronnie. The younger girls' names were probably Cathy and Sharon.

Moss Drug was the favorite drug store for phosphates and penny candy. It was on 222nd street.

The libraries Euclid kids used were the Cuyahoga County Library on 222nd street, Cleveland Public on 185th street and later and Euclid Public Library on 222nd street.

The Panther Diner was across from the high school on 222nd street.

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Kids went for ice cream treats to the Euclid Race Dairy on 200th street.

Demshar's sold cameras and records.

Happy John Habit was the coach who ran the weight lifting club at Shore Jr. High.

Mr. Roebuck was an evening dispatcher for Euclid Taxi, National Forensic League coach and winner of a lawsuit when he found a fly in his can of tuna.

The Eucuyo was the Euclid High School annual literary publication.

Wanapolo was the swim club.



The 194 street pier

A secret tunnel in the high school ran between the under stage of the auditorium and boiler room, coming out in the administration corridor.

The indoor track ran around the base of the swimming pool.

George Wiley was the chief counselor.

Jody Graham was the Euclid High swim coach until his untimely death.

Mr. Fellows was the chief custodian.

Mr. Jenkins was the Euclid High School drama coach.

Mr. Whiteside was a long time history teacher.

Mr. Blackburn was a long time English teacher.

Browning's had a sailboat and a canoe.

Kenneth Bates' hobby and profession was enameling on copper. His wife's name was Charlotte.

Mrs. Cotton's first name was Elizabeth. She was a big tournament Whist fan.

Mrs. Wardwell's hobby was golf. Her children were Melinda and Jeffrey. They had two large buckeye trees in their back yard.

Aunt Bea lived with the Wardwells.

The Brownings had a playhouse in the back yard and a tennis court between their house and the Fitzmaurice's.

Early Win, Bob Feller, Jim Higgins and a bunch of other Cleveland Indians rented Wardwell's house one summer.

The Bates' children were Ben, Katherine and Connie.

The Browning's children were Ned, Richard and Ann.

Audrey, Jean and Virginia Bell taught gym at Shore High.

The Doherty boys were Jim, Jackie and Joey.

The rollerrink was on Shore Center Drive as was Spudnuts.

Some of the kids called Ben Bates Gut, probably because he could eat a dozen glazed donuts at one sitting.

The older kids called Chris Goober.

Carla collected beach glass, worked 3-11 at the hospital and made fruit soup and plum jam.

Mr. Bates baked a spinach pie and a geranium-pear one.

Lassie was our first and only pet dog at that house. She was a collie. Mr. Bates, the landlord made us get rid of her after a short time. He was concerned she might damage his prize horticulture garden.