

Our History

Memories of Dewey Stone Area by Richard Lourette

After reading Bill Bartling's story about Dewey Stone in the 1940s in our May Corinthian, GHS member, **Richard Lourette** sent us his story about the 1950s.

My parents moved to the suburbs in February 1944. I came along in November. (You can do the math.) Coincidentally to Mr. Bartling's previous piece, we moved to 42 Dalston Rd. We lived four houses from the two pillars at Dewey, Gulf & Sunoco Gas Stations. Moving north there was a building between the Gulf station and Beaumont Rd. Like ancient Gaul, it was divided into three parts. Esler's was on the South, Lincoln Bank in the middle, and a toy store on the north next to Beaumont. The toy store had Yo-Yo contests at the beginning of each summer. It was quite something when my sister won one summer and beat all the boys. The toy store moved out and Loblaw's moved in. Eventually Loblaw's moved into the field just east of Barnard school. Esler's moved to the north end and Cadet Cleaners took its place on the south end.

Dew-Stone plaza was built north of Beaumont. It was cool because you could enter Star Market from either Dewey Ave. or Stone Rd. On the south end next to Beaumont was a bakery and then later Fay's Drug Store. The Dutch Mill was always a presence. One thing I could never figure out was when I delivered the Times-Union newspaper, how could so many guys work at Kodak days and yet be on a bar stool at 3:00 p.m.

I happened to know that Mr. Jackson learned the bakery business at Schliff Bake Shop downtown, went in the Navy, and then came home and opened his business at the corner on Beaumont & Stone. He moved his place across the street for better parking. Have you tried parking in front of Jackson's lately?

Directly across the street from Dalston was a Laundromat, and then going north was Veltri's Shoe store and then a children's clothing store on the corner of Shady Way. I still see Carl Veltri at the YMCA.

Across Shady Way, the central point of the neighborhood (except for those on the bar stools at the Dutch Mill) was, for some, Johnny's Sweet Shop Restaurant (a place to also buy your Easter candy). Next to Johnny's was the Towne Men Shop. I personally worked there for Harry Melon for 10-12 years. Going north in the same building: a Barber Shop, Dance Studio, and Mortillaro's Paint Store as well as Mortillaro's Jewelry Store.

Continuing north, they tore down an apartment building on the corner of Shady Way. Lincoln Bank built a new building and moved from across the Street. Jumping up to Stone Road there was the Corner Service (my favorite place to get junk food), Barnard Meat Market, another bakery, Bill's Barber shop and Kujawa's Television Repair. West across Dewey was a Rotary Gas Station. Between it and Barnard were the new Loblaw and Cramer's Rexall Drug Store.

Beyond the two schools (Barnard & St Charles) & the two churches (St. Charles & Bethany Pres) was the fire house. Where would any kid have been without the 12:00 & 5:00 whistle or the field next to Clark Park to play sports? Finally, Nick & Erwin's Dry Cleaners certainly added to the neighborhood.



I personally have not gone very far. I grew up four houses from Route 18. I now live with my lovely better half just north about 20 houses off Route 18 (Latta). It's been a circle route: 25+ years near Dewey/Stone; 10 years in Chili; 25+ years in the City (19th Ward); & now 11 years back home in Greece Centre. That's life!

Richard Lourette



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