

HELEN MacISSAC

- o Resident from 1969 to 1981
- o Eaton Student from 1969 to 1971
- o 24 years old

I think Cleveland Park is really unique for being in a city.... very stable. It's like an island. I knew everybody in all the houses on Lowell, Macomb and Newark Streets. I knew every family in every house. I was friends with their kids my age, and babysat for those who were younger. Their parents were friends of my parents....really pretty close knit.

Every afternoon I went to Macomb Playground and played Newcomb or baseball or football. We had a bridge phase at one point. We'd take a break and go up to Armand's for a sub and ruin our dinners. We used to go down to the Uptown to see movies....and goto the Zebra to have half-price pizza at night. A lot of my friends went to different high schools, but since we all lived so close together, we really did still see each other. It was a real network. Even when we were older, the Block Party would still be a fun event....to grace the party with our presence....the senior kids looking at all the new little kids.

There were a lot of big families. The Moore family lived on the corner of Newark and 34th and they had so many kids that everybody knew all of them. They went to Eaton for some period. It was exciting when John Lennon and Yoko Ono came to the Moore's house, when Bishop Moore was helping them get their visas back. The Parks were a big family.... they lived right across the street from Teddy and Eleanor Mondale. We used to play kick-the-can in front of their houses on Lowell Street because there were almost no cars. It was another gathering place.

Not too many families with children lived toward the Cathedral or toward Massachusetts Avenue....mostly older families with grown children. There's a great alley between Klinge and Cleveland where the kids would congregate.