

GEORGE PENNY

- o Resident since 1972
- o Teacher at National Child Research Center
from 1973 to 1975 and at John Eaton since 1983
- o 37 years old

I've lived in Cleveland Park eleven years and like the neighborhood very much. It's beautiful, peaceful....not like living in a stuffy city. It's really nice to live and work in the same place. Not having children and not owning a house, I've never really gotten to know a lot of the neighbors.

One thing that makes Cleveland Park special for me is that I've lived here longer than any other place, except the house that I grew up in. I feel very safe here. It's convenient to get downtown, uptown, and out of town. One thing I think I'll always remember, because I walk a lot....is a great big beech tree as you come up Newark Street. I like the animals in my back yard....the racoons and the possums. I live right near that dip between Macomb and Newark, which is pretty wild. I can sit in my living room and I don't see any houses. All I see is sky and trees, so it feels private....very quiet.

I worked for two years at National Child Research Center on Highland Place. And I worked over at the Cathedral at the Gatehouse in an after-school program for a year. When I first got here and started teaching at NCRC, there was a boy in the class next to mine who was, I guess, four or five. This fall he walked into my classroom at John Eaton and he was my assistant....Ben Atkeson. That's the biggest change I've noticed....just seeing the children grow up.

There are certain shopkeepers who stand out in my mind. There's one man at the Safeway, Wally, who's been there as long as I've been here. He's very jolly. There's a woman at Peoples who stands out because it takes an hour to get through her line.

I remember during the period when Star Wars was playing at the Uptown, it was impossible to park for months and months. St. Patrick's Day is another time when it's impossible to park because of Gallagher's Pub and Ireland's Four Provinces at the bottom of the hill. At that time, it's very loud and not peaceful.