

LIBBY ROWE

- o Resident since 1951
- o Eaton Parent 1953-54
- o 72 years old

I have lived in Cleveland Park for 33 years. I think it has changed less than almost any neighborhood in the city, which is one of the reasons we have liked it so much. But there is turnover of course. Our street, for instance, always has lots of little boys on it. We look out the window every spring and there is a whole new crop of little boys trying out their bicycles on Highland Place. There were always enough boys when my son was growing up for a softball game.... which was played in our garden. And for many years it was the one softball field....of Highland Place and Newark Street and it never had any grass and had very few shrubs.

When my children were little, there used to be sledding on Newark Street with a fire at the top and a fire at the bottom and parents taking turns watching the sledding. In the summer they swam at the Cleveland Park Club with great pleasure, but, of course, as soon as they got to be big children, the Cleveland Park pool was too small and too crowded. There was a junior program there for a while with old movies and occasional parties.

I was the chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission in the '60s. I woke up one morning when my husband was away, and I saw that I was being picketed. There were people with signs walking up and down in front of the gate. They wanted to have the site of the Old Training School for Boys used for housing and not for the Government Printing Office.

We had a rally here once for Hubert Humphrey in the garden. We wound red, white, and blue paper around the columns on the porch and he made a speech to the neighborhood.

Most recently I worked with the group that was successful in keeping overdevelopment from Tregaron, where they were going to build a number of townhouses....more houses than there are on the whole mile between Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue. The neighbors got together and went to the Zoning Commission and the Zoning Commission listened to us. And the plan was turned down.