

My Green Lake Story: Vivian Dick Garrett

I first was introduced to Green Lake as a child of five years, in 1948. My father, The Rev. George Dick, an American Baptist Minister, was the pastor of First Baptist Church, South Bend, IN. My mother, Claribel F. Dick, was his wife and partner in ministry. Dad and Mother were, from the very beginning, advocates of the American Baptist Assembly (ABA) and supported it in every way. That included spending from one to three weeks at ABA every summer. Dad would attend a conference the first week. Then Mother would attend a conference the second. The third week was a family vacation.

The Children's Center became very important to me, including my brother and two sisters. As a family we came every summer from 1948 until we moved to Oregon in 1960. After that it was every other year. Years later I was a member of the young adult staff, working in the bookstore located in Brayton Case.

As a child and young adult, Roger Williams Inn was a magical place. The minute you walked in the front doors you felt at home. A welcoming place, open to all that entered: a place of dignity, beauty, and grandeur. The people at the front desk were always friendly, helpful, and knew our names.

The Crystal Dining Room and the screened in porch (the Veranda) were where we ate our meals. Meals were served family style. Tables covered in white linen tablecloths





and napkins, set with Lawsonia crystal, silver, and china. Large bowls of fresh fruit were in the middle of each table. There were waiters in white jackets to bring the food and help you with whatever you wanted. As a young person it was a sight to behold and remember forever. I was glad I was able to experience this special moment of a bygone age. Dr. Hoiland would make announcements and then we would sing the blessing.

The swimming pool and the snackery were the social hub. The pool, and snackery, were where everyone came together, children and adults. Whether it was after meetings or after the evening sessions, the fellowship was a sight to see and hear. Bright umbrella tables lined the waterfront; and there was hardly any room on the grass to lay down your towel. There was no swimming on Sundays, because the pool, which had been emptied on Saturday evening, was filling all day Sunday. No filter, so the pool was cleaned every week. Later in the 1960s, as a young adult, I would help scrub the pool with a scrub brush and a bucket every Saturday night. Both student and young adult staff would assist the waterfront staff in cleaning the pool. It was a social event!

If you are open, A Closer Walk with God occurs daily in how you interact and relate to others. As a child and young adult, Green Lake meant

Because of Green Lake

- I have lifelong friendships
- I have had chances to serve and work with others from all over the world
- I can share experiences with fellow believers who love the gospel and music
- I can experience the beauty of the lake and its activities
- Relive all the wonderful times I had with my family
- I get to again meet my parents, who are around every corner of Green Lake

-Vivian Dick Garrett

freedom. Freedom to roam the grounds with a feeling of absolute security on my part as well as my parents. To trust those around me and be comfortable wherever I went on the grounds. I have experienced the freedom that Green Lake offers as a child, as an adult, as a leader, as a board member, and as a volunteer. The freedom to participate in leadership opportunities and spiritual growth. The freedom to mix with resident staff and guests. How blessed we are to have such a place to grow.