

Looking Back on The Hill

Redfield Street July 4th bonfires, corner of Redfield and Columbus was famous for middle of the road bonfires. Even with police posted on every corner, kids would run out from the alley ways drop mattresses, wood etc. and light the fire before police could stop them. You could hear the people cheering up and down the street.

Trowbridge Bidy Basketball, circa 1956,7, Teams such as the Philadelphia Warriors with Alex and Joe Tonelli, Clarence Testa, and Tony (Chuky) Izzo produced some terrific athletes. Other notables included Billy Turbert, Bobby Leonzo, Billy (Bones) Santillo, and Jimmy Perillo, Butch Bannon.

Paul Owens Clubhouse, Many day's kids would play hooky from school and hang out in the clubhouse (the size of a port-a-let) in Paul's (Atta Baby's) back yard. . Once someone brought a carton of Dunhill cigarettes and the kids were smoking in the clubhouse, Paul's mom thought it was on fire and called the Fire Department.

Hillhouse's Wonder Five, was led by the Hill's Sal DeNicola, other names were Bosley, Badger, Woods, Nelson, Gaetano's, Davin's, Tullo, and Morgan They played for the New England championship in Boston, everyone has their version of how that went.

Arthur Street Cork Ball, there were daily games, the street was marked from pitching rubber to batters box, etc. We had our favorite bats (broomsticks) and played with (Seamless Rubber Co.) taped corks. Stats were kept, BA, HR's, RBI's. Regulars were Joe and GiGi Morrell, Jack Daly, Jimmy Casey, Bobby Lillis, Howie Ross, Johnny Pelzer and Nick DeMatties.

White Street had their own version of stickball. Players included Ray Ray, Lou and Beef Ciarleglio, Bobby Pallecci, Joey and Alex Tonelli, Tony Izzo, and Bobby O'Dell.

City Point U, (CPU). was a barnstorming basketball team from the Hill. Starters on the team were Henry Girard, Bobby Lee, Tommy Coffey, Nick

DeMatties and Skippy Dalton. They challenged and played kids from all New Haven neighborhoods.

***Mr. Flanagans Boys Club**, many kids grew up hanging out at the Flanagan house. Mr. Flanagan (Gene) had an open door policy to the kids in the neighborhood. All friends of the Flanagan boy's Gene Jr., John, Jimmy, and Richie were regular visitors. The kitchen table was always full of kids, drinking instant coffee and the banter was always flying. Mr. Flanagan was always at the head of the table and when there was a lull in the conversation he would ask about someone's last night date or how so and so did in the pick up football game, and the banter and kidding was on again.*

***Trowbridge (The Green) Regulars** included Louie Ciarleglio, Dudley (Gus) Saleme, Marcel (Monk) Franco, Andy Riccio, Billy (Shoes) Scarpa, Tony Givasio, Faoud, Eddie Murgo, JJ Casbaro, Beef Ciarleglio, Skippy Deme, Buddy Martino, Tarsen, Superman, Bowen, etc.*

***Trip to Wildwood** in Henry Girard's 1953 Merc, **Cruise Savin Rock** in Charlie Larson 36 Chevy, **NYC trips** in The Captain's 50 Ford, Charlie's corvette, Wally's MG, Billy Martindale' car radio blaring,*

Triangle A.C. baseball, Hill Braves baseball. Burning the Weeds an annual event, Robbie's Antique store, The Queen of Hearts pin ball machine at Kappy's,

Write your own Hill experiences and send them in so we can post them on our web site. There has to be many stories about Six Corners, Kappy's, Mazzacanes, Robby's Antiques, Sacred Heart and other school stories.