

Ida Rose Beerman (Idabee)
(Mrs. Sylvan Garonzik)
10740 Pagewood Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75230

J. C. H. Alumni 1924-1932

MEMORIES

As one of "the kids" in the Home I think of myself as the original "good little bad little girl" with the curl in the middle of her forehead. When I was good I was very, very good and when I was bad I was horrid.

One of eight children whose mother had died in November, I arrived in New Orleans at the Home in December of 1924 along with Ralph, 2 years older, Sarah 2 years younger, Roy 4 yrs younger, Morris 4 yrs old, and Mollie just 2½ - almost 3 years old. I was eleven.

The Beermans were always an amiable and cheerful group who were well liked and cheerful and found it easy to bum the extra cinnamon rolls from kids at other tables than our own. We were one of the few families lucky enough and large enough to have a dining table of our own, which helped to keep us together as a family. We always stuck together and were very close then and very close and supportive today too. The oldest sister Sadie and oldest brother David stayed behind in Waco, Texas and went to work, but Sadie saved her pennies through the years and came to see us often. David joined the Marines shortly after we entered the Home and came back to New Orleans a hero in a beautiful uniform. He settled down in New Orleans and married a wonderful Jewish girl and became a real "mench", the father of 4 fantastic daughters.

I arrived at the home bewildered by my new surroundings, We had been the poorest of the poor. I had always had fantasies of one day becoming an artist or a writer or a dancer or a singer, and in the Home I was just grateful if someone liked me. I catered to the older girls and they thought I was very "sweet."

I was a "dreamer", like my father, a kindly man who came to see us from Waco and brought with him his fiddle with which he entertained the children. Sadie got acquainted easily and to this day remembers almost as many of the kids as we do.

When Edward Lashman arrived as superintendant in about 1926 to replace Mr. Volmer I became devoted to him because of his gentle and highly educated manner and because, after hearing that I liked to draw and paint, he summoned me to his office and asked if I would like to have art lessons! He allowed me to ride the street car alone to the romantic French quarter once a week where I climbed the circular stairway in the courtyard to a second floor room and joined a group of interesting people of various ages. That was the second turning point in my life. Mr. Lashman arranged dancing lessons and piano and gymnastics and other music for those interested - whether talented or not.

It is hard to imagine now how young Edward Lashman was at age 38 when he died suddenly. And then came Harry Ginsburg.

Harry Ginsburg made history in many ways - some admirable and some destructive. He brought with him a new era, a new mood, new rules, a new liberalism as he discarded many of the old rules .. And he gave me some ideas of my own about rules. When I found I wasn't one of his many so called "pets" my personality took on an about face and I became a teenage rebel. When Ginsburg summoned me to his office I stood thoroughly chastized, red-faced and humiliated. Another turning point.

Today I am forever grateful that my brothers and sisters and I had found a Home with food, fun and friendships. I had a superior high school and business school education and 2 diplomas that I might otherwise have never had. I returned to Dallas to work and married a wonderful Jewish man from a fine family - a man who was talented, gifted, artistic, witty and dearly loved in the community. Together we produced two handsome boys and two gorgeous girls who are talented, intelligent and successful. My life has been good.