

SCHOOL YEARS

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I suppose Long Beach will always be of special significance to me, not only because it is my birthplace but because it holds my first real memories.

My days were filled with playing at the beach and play time in the park in addition to my own backyard which was the gathering place for the neighborhood kids. Then my mother primed me for my first big adventure - I was to start to Nursery School.

I was picked up, along with other kids in my neighborhood, in a station wagon and taken to a veritable heaven for four year olds. I was an only child and although I had always had someone near my own age to play with, it was the first time I had been one of a group of boys and girls spending an entire morning and having lunch together every day. It was the first time I had had a part in little programs, the first time I had been one of the hosts to doting parents, the first time to have special assignments, the first time for so many, many things. Yes, Long Beach will always be something special for me.

After nursery school came real school, and believe me I found quite a difference. My first three years was in a private school and we were expected to do our work and conduct ourselves as students. A far cry from the years of play!

In the fourth grade I entered public school, and at about that age my folks began planning little trips and vacations that would appeal to a boy. I took part in school activities, spent Easter and Christmas vacations with my grandparents, had nice summers at the beach, the mountains ~~etc.~~, and the first thing I knew I was ready for Junior High School. Another milestone in my life.

Junior High School brought more work, more responsibilities and more privileges. The greatest privilege of all was the four month trip to Mexico and Central America with my cousin.

Entering high school was certainly an event - I looked forward to it and have enjoyed every bit of it. My first job with a regular pay day came at the end of my freshman year. I was a flunky at a service station, had a couple of swell guys to work for and had a lot of fun and did a lot of work. One week's vacation at the beach, a long week-end in Los Angeles and school time again. Now the first quarter of my sophomore year is passed and another year is well under way.

What you have is very good
but I believe it could be
improved if you narrowed
down to one or two incidents.