

The Hansen House

A History and Memories of the Hansen Family from the 1930s

Sweet Memories of Oakland from the 1930s and 1940s

History is so much more than dry dates, people and old buildings. On occasion and if we are particularly blessed, an oral history of past times and events will come to us by those who lived it. The richness and warmth of those memories enter our souls to create both an understanding and quiet appreciation of simpler times past and in particular those who contributed to our Oakland of today.

The Hansen House, a famous and iconic restaurant of Oakland's relatively recent past, is the grandfather to the Portobello Banquet facility. But more importantly, following are some of the living memories of the children of Hans and Dagny Hansen, the founders of the Hansen House in the early 1930s. Sonya and Evelyn Hansen called the Hansen House home for 29 years and reflect upon their life as children in Oakland when life was infinitely simpler, a Mayberry.

This writer is privileged and honored to make the acquaintance of the children of Hans and Dagny Hansen and the coterie of their friends, Nick, Brad Boone and Cean, Nick's sister. They grew up together in the 1930s, 1940s and the 1950s. and this is their story and their memories of their beloved Oakland.