

# **There is nothing on this earth to be prized more than true friendship.**

Thomas Aquinas

## **Forward**

This document is about a lifelong friendship among five people recollecting the innocent charms of growing up in Oakland, New Jersey during the 1940s through the 1970s. They refer to themselves as the Tribe. It is a sequenced collection of 168 emails among them sharing and reminiscing about their life and good times when this town was truly a Mayberry. And it is history of their world in their own words.

They lived in basically adjacent homes with life more or less focused upon the Hansen House Restaurant where Sonya and her sister, Evelyn, grew up while living on the third floor. Nick and his sister lived to the right and Brad lived to the left across Trout Pond.

My association with the Tribe began in March, 2018 when I received an email from Sonya Hansen Huhn inquiring why I hadn't written more about the Hansen House and 'her part of town'. While I was aware of the Hansen House, I had never heard of Sonya. It unfolded that she was the daughter of Hans and Dagny Hansen, the founders of the Hansen House in 1938.

As Sonya and I corresponded, the question of the origins of the building of the Hansen House emerged and in a flash I was hooked and initiated a determined effort to discover the true roots of the Hansen House building and separate fact from fiction. And in the course of my research I was introduced to other members of the Tribe. I was immediately awestruck by the depth and durability of their friendship. Only Evelyn lives close in Kinnelon while Sonya lives 50 miles away, Caen resides in Georgia, Brad's home is in Connecticut and Nick is shoeless in Hawaii.

I guess that one could describe my association with the Tribe as being a honorary, semi-associate member on the extreme periphery of their reservation.....an outsider honored to look in while attempting to contribute. What a blessing!

Kevin Heffernan  
July, 2018