

When I heard that Judge Garrity might have people bused out of their neighborhood, I was full of anxiety. I thought that if I was bused I wouldn't meet any friends. The reason was that I wanted to stay in my own neighborhood. Then all my friends would go to the same school. All of my friends had strange thoughts about busing. I thought that there would be riots and fights, and there would be no way to get home. So I would rather stay in my own neighborhood.

When I heard about integrated schools, I thought it would be a good idea because usually schools are either all black or all white. Now most schools in Boston are integrated and the black and white people can get together and be friends. Years ago black and white people wouldn't even talk to each other. Now with integrated schools, there will be more friendships. Still a lot of black and white people don't get along, but I don't see why not, everybody was made equal.

When I first came into the classroom I saw different black and white people. The room was very quiet so I didn't think there were many friends. A lot of people looked tough and not very friendly. I only knew a few friends from last year. My teacher was very nice to all the kids, and tried to make us understand him. A few weeks later I made a lot of friends like [REDACTED], [REDACTED], etc. Later one of my last year's best friends, [REDACTED], became my favorite classmate this year. Later just about all the boys were my friends.

Now, with all our subjects we never get a free period. Each period is 45 minutes long except for the last period which is 35 minutes. We have seven periods in a day. My favorite subject is woodwork, then Spanish, etc. The subjects aren't all that bad, and the day goes by very quickly.

I made friends with a lot of black people which I didn't think I would do. I'm glad I am in an integrated classroom. I'm glad I am in Mr. Mulkern's room because we don't write punishment assignments. I can't think of any happy times but we probably had them. Other classes aren't as lucky as we are because they don't have as nice a teacher as ours, and we'll get a better education.

One of the most memorable times in school was when I was elected to the Bi-Racial Council, which is a regular council of the black and white students. There are four kids from each race, which talk over problems faced by the two races.

At the beginning of the year we didn't have much fun. Then in February we went to Bal-A-Roue skating rink in Medford. We had a lot of fun. When we got there it looked like a dump, but inside it was real nice. The skates weighed a ton! At the end of the day my feet were aching with blisters. The next week we started our zoo trips. Now every Thursday we go to the Franklin Park Zoo, but twice we will go to the Stoneham Zoo. At the zoo we break up into four groups, the name of my group is the Peacocks. Our leader is Mrs. Manahan from Needham, the teacher from the school that goes with us. The trips are part of the wildlife educational program.

A few months ago we went to Hale's Reservation. Our group was called the Raccoons. We had a lot of fun. We started by looking under rocks for insects. Then we did a lot of forestry. I think I will always remember that day.

During the month of May, 1975, we were thinking about going roller skating again. Only 65 kids in our cluster were going, so we hoped we would have as much fun as last time.

I really had fun this year. I am hoping to have as good a time next year as I did this year. So I think the busing plan worked out fine for our class but I think I would have had more fun in my own neighborhood.

For this summer I am hoping to go to summer camp for one week with the Boy Scouts. For the rest of the summer, I hope I have fun.

When it was time to take the Latin test, I thought it would be very hard. I said if I passed I would go there next year. When I took the test I thought I would pass. Then I heard that there might not be a Latin school for seventh and eighth graders. If there wasn't, I would want to stay at the Holmes because I know most of the teachers and am used to our subjects and periods. Now that I've heard that Garrity has signed the Latin papers, I don't think I will go because of all the homework and most of my friends are not going. So I would really want to stay at the Holmes or go to ST. Mark's School so I would be with my best friend, [REDACTED], who really wants me to go to the same school with him.