

Things I remember from the early days living on Guinea Rd. By Cheryl Anderson.

My parents, Ken and Margie Anderson were charter members of the LRCA. I remember my mother telling me that the LRCA was instrumental in petitioning the County for Fairfax Hospital to be built. The nearest hospital at the time was Arlington Hospital (where I was born). Members went all over the area, door to door with their petitions to be signed until they are gathered enough signatures. I don't remember how many signatures. For many years there was a directory with all the members names and their phone numbers that was circulated once a year.

Guinea Road where I lived, in 1959 it was a dirt/gravel road. The road was paved in the early 60's but wasn't widened until about 1970. The homeowners/landowners were compensated for taking half their front yards. But no one wanted it. The nickname of Guinea Rd. was "skinny Guinea".

Before the road was widened, there were very steep ditches (about 3 or 4 feet deep) and every year the chain gang would come dig out all the leaves. Mail boxes were all the way out to the road and our mailman Mr. Mailey, (his real name!) lived at the corner of Guinea Rd and El James Dr. and was a very nice man. If you didn't have a stamp, you could leave 6 cents (price of a 1st class stamp) and he would put a stamp on for you.

There was a dump with an old car from probably the 30's on Guinea Rd about where the second Truro house is now after Burbank Rd. and the road had such a curve, all the kids thought someone had died in that car because of the sharp curve. They straightened most of that out when the road was widened.

We eventually got a sidewalk which was tar and chip, but wider than today's cement sidewalks.

Everyone seemed to know everyone else, as there weren't many houses then, it was a real small town. Our first address was Burke, VA it was then changed to Annandale. Our first phone number exchange was CR3 then 280 and eventually 978 which it has stayed for many years now.

When we first moved to Guinea Rd there was no Woods of Ilda, so no houses behind us. There was an old colonial road which you could follow which is much of Pappas Way now. If you followed the road, (or even the creek) you would wind up at Bessley's Farm which was right across from the old Wakefield Chapel Church.

There was no Truro which was started in about 1969 and Rutherford took a while but was in process. We had woods all around us, and on a summer's night with the windows open I could hear cows mooing before I fell asleep. There were farms all around us. Quite a few homes were built by the owners, you could buy a lot of land and build your own. I know the land right across from Little River Elementary was owned by Mort & Dot Bratter (also charter members) and they built their first house which sits the highest on the hill with the land below as their pasture for their horse. When the horse died they sold that house and built another right below the first house and right in front of their pond. They then sold two more lots; those two houses on side of Olley Lane were built in the 80's.

Olley Lane got its name from a man named Olley who owned the farm. His little white farm house was on the corner of Braddock Rd and Olley Lane and sadly was torn down a few years ago and many houses sit there now.

In the sixties we used to walk to Patty's Riding Stable which was on the other side of Guinea Rd across Braddock Rd. (which was just a four way stop then) and right before Guinea veers off to the right to go to Burke. The house is still there, the barns are long gone and you can't see the original house from the road for all the houses that were built in the pastures but if you drove into the development, you would see a charming old house.

Shopping was done in Alexandria or DC, there was no Pickett or Turpike shopping centers or King's Park or Twinbrook. We did have a little mart called the Roadside Market, roughly where the 7-11 is now on 236. They were a really nice family.

Doctors would make house calls, and if you were sick home from school and it was vaccine day, they would send someone out to give you that vaccine.