

"merry-go-round"! You got on and had to propel it yourself with one foot, but it was great! Favorite games were "One-Two-Three Red Light", and "Red Rover, Come Over". When the bell would ring to go back inside, the kids would chant, "Bell, bell, in the peanut shell!"

Speaking of merry-go-rounds! What sets a child's heart a-fluttering, or his eyes to widening more.....than a carnival come to town! In the late 30's, the Elks sponsored a "fair", and it was held right across the street from School #4! Can you imagine how hard, if not impossible, it was for the children to stay away from the windows, and their wild delight at watching this incredible extravaganza taking shape before their very eyes!!

At the time, almost the entire length of La Grande Ave., on the opposite side of the school, to Laurel Place, was, like so many other areas of Fanwood, nothing but long grass. This included the rear portion of the Hubbell property, which was lawn and trees, but other than that, it was just open, fielded land, and a perfect spot for the carnival to set up its noisy glitter and magic. The fair was held more than once, probably at least two, or maybe more, successive springs.

The game of jumprope was big in Fanwood back then. Girls carried their ropes with them to school. The more adept would often jump "Double Dutch", and chant such verses as, "Ice cream soda with a cherry on top, tell me the initials of your sweetheart". You "jumped out" when you got to the special initials, and all the other kids would be in great wonderment, attempting to guess just whose initials they could be! "Steady ender" was a familiar call. "Tag, You're It" was another favorite game, and of course "Hide and Seek" and all the other traditional old favorites. At that time there were woods next to the school, a perfect spot for "Hide and Seek"! When we could not go outside due to inclement weather, a favorite classroom game was "Huckle-Buckle-Beanstalk".

Christmastime was always special at School #4. Mr. Warner ("Woje"), the music teacher then, and much later, the principal, unbeknownst to us dressed as Santa. We'd gather in the auditorium, loudly sing, "Up on the housetop, reindeer pause, out jumps good old Santa Claus".....when "Santa", on cue, would come bounding in, and present each one of us with a HUGE candy cane. Sheer paradise!

My schoolmates always told me I was "lucky" because we lived quite close to the school, on Martine Ave. My mother always tells me that she could