

Dave Schaiman's memo of our shared childhood written in 1991

Take Us Back To 1940 - P.S. 217 - Green & Golden Banners

WE' ARE THE SURVIVORS!! Consider what we had and the changes we have witnessed:

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes -- AND before man walked on the moon.

We got married first, then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of", bunnies were small rabbits, and Rabbits were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre (570 Westminster Avenue).

We were born before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers, couch potatoes and commuter marriages. We were born before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness--not computers or condominiums; a 'chip' meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word!

In 1940 "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizza Parlors, "MacDonalds" and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were Five and Ten Cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Good Humor and Bungelow Bar sold ice cream pops for a nickle or a dime, and for a lucky stick you got one free. For one nickle you could ride a subway, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one: a pity, because gas was \$0.11 a gallon!

A corned beef sandwich, french fries, and Dr. Brown's cream soda at Luddy's on Rugby Road and New Kirk for \$0.50, or was it \$0.55?

A hot dog and french fries at Coney Island - Nathan's \$0.15, and the Cyclone or Parachute after got a few guys sick to their stomachs.

Swimming at the St. George Hotel on Saturday afternoon and golf (Pitch and Putt at Reis Park).

Stick ball, softball, or basketball in the school yard and football at the Parade grounds.

Using your "pencil" to write your name after parties.

Movies for \$0.14 at the Leader or Kent on Saturday.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not born before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today!

BUT WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?