

I Think I'm Old

E-mail from www.

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favourite 'fast food' when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him.

'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously.. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'home," I explained ! 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured he could have taken it seriously.

The majority of parents . . . NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never . . . drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed . . . (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 pm, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home . . . but milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers . . . I delivered a newspaper, seven days a week.

Film stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least . . . they did in the films. There were no movie ratings . . . all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or almost anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing. Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it... I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

Headlight dip-switches on the floor of the car.

Ignition switches on the dashboard.

Trouser leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.

Soldering irons you heated on a gas burner.

Using hand signals for cars without turn indicators.

Older Than Dirt Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember, not the ones you were told about.

Ratings at the bottom.

- 1. Sweet cigarettes**
- 2. Coffee shops with juke boxes**
- 3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles**
- 4. Party lines on the telephone**
- 5. Newsreels before the movie**
- 6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning..(There were only 2 channels [if you were fortunate])**
- 7. Peashooters**
- 8. 33 rpm records**
- 9. 45 RPM records**
- 10. 78 RPM records**
- 11. Hi-fi's**
- 12. Metal ice trays with levers**
- 13. Blue flashbulb**
- 14. Cork popguns**
- 15. Wash tub wringers**

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young

If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older

If you remembered 7-11 = Don't tell your age

If you remembered 12-15 = You're positively ancient!

I must be 'positively ancient' but those memories are some of the best parts of my life.

(PS. I used a bold type face so you could read it easily