

Ah, The Good Old Days!

*By Hap Hansen*

As I age, there are many things I miss. Someone once said, "Of all the things I miss, I miss my mind the most!" For me, some days are like that! Here are a few things I miss, some from my childhood, some as an adult:

The *Tonight Show* with Johnnie Carson, *Rowan and Martin, Laugh-In, The Ed Sullivan Show, M.A.S.H.*, the big bands on radio and TV, Glenn Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Ralph Flanagan and many others. All the good singers from days gone by, Ella Fitzgerald, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra to name a few. Comedians such as Bob Hope, Jack Benny and Don Rickles. Movie actors like Charlton Heston, Elizabeth Taylor, Humphrey Bogart and Paul Newman. And in black and white, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. In old-time radio, *Fibber McGee and Molly, The Shadow Knows, Amos and Andy* plus many others that had the family gathering around the radio almost every night.

Some other things include, the 'rumble-seat' on our Model A Ford, a movie ticket for 35 cents, or if you were 12 or under, 13 cents. Times when the whole world was at peace, first trip to the moon, the last total eclipse, cigarettes, using the hand-crank on a freezer to make home-made ice cream, home-grown tomatoes that were picked ripe instead of green, my Mother's fried chicken, mashed home-grown potatoes with real cream gravy, a Scotch and water, a vodka Martini, two olives please.

As a child, going out in the cold to the water well to get fresh water for drinking and cooking, or to get coal or corn cobs to burn in the cook stove, which was our only source of heat. Reading by a small oil lamp because we had no electricity, my '56 Chevy Convertible that I had to sell so we could afford to go on a honeymoon, Nebraska football teams that won most of their games, and golf, the way I used to play.

Finally, the thing I miss the most: for more than 60 years, being with the woman I loved.