

Strange Words and Phrases

By Hap Hansen

Years ago, there were a whole bunch of slang words that people used with regularity. Most of them are out of vogue now, having been replaced with an evolving teenage language that the majority of us probably do not understand. Most kids today, and some adults, can't complete a sentence unless there are several 'you knows,' 'it's like' and 'get reals' inserted.

Even the language of business has changed, particularly since the onset of the computer age. Bits, bytes, modems and PC's are words used every day at the office, but never in a non-computer home.

I miss the old, slang terms. When someone described an object as a doozy or a lollapalooza, one knew the object was a cut above the rest. When amateur automobile mechanics picked up a whatchamacallit, screwed it on to the doohickey and then attached it to the thingamajig, every bystander seemed to understand what they were talking about. I'm not sure what a wangdoodle was, but the word was usually uttered as a term of awe or endearment, as "It was a real wangdoodle!" And everyone within earshot seemed to understand what they were talking about and would nod their heads in solemn agreement.

I do recall the roody-roo section of town was where the wealthier folks lived, as opposed to the rickety-rack section where most of the rest of us lived. Lots of people today swear with reckless abandon, but in earlier days, words such as dagnabit, gosh-darn and ratselfratz seemed to suffice when one was angry at someone or something.

I think the dipsy-doodle was some sort of dance, although I have never seen it performed. It must have been done secretly by some flapper, floozy or tart! Everyone knows what a dingbat was. Especially since the word was revived and used as a description for Edith by Archie Bunker. Few husbands would dare call their wives dingbats today. You know you are well over the age of fifty if you recognize the words to this long ago popular song....

"Chicory-chick, cha la, cha la, checkalaroma, innebananica, bolica-wolicka can't you see, chickory-chick is me!" Holy Moly, what a song! Hey, all you lassies and laddies, have a great, like, week. You know?

