

New Year's Eve, 2015

*By Hap Hansen*

It is nearly December 31, 2015, New Year's Eve. The next day begins the year 2016. Unfortunately, I will be writing 2015 on my checks and notes for several months into the New Year. Again this New Year's Eve, I will celebrate. But only up to about nine p.m., because that's my bedtime. I have not witnessed the beginning of a new year for several years and this year will be no different. Most of us have celebrated quite a few New Year's Eve's, so it's time to take a memory test. Do you remember these 20 items from days gone by?

Blackjack chewing gum; tiny wax Coke-shaped bottles containing colored sugar water; candy cigarettes; soda pop machines that dispensed bottles, not cans; coffee shops with jukeboxes at each table, where songs could be heard for a nickel, or six for a quarter.

How about home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard toppers that came off when the cream expanded, which drew every cat in the neighborhood; telephone party lines with six or seven families on each line and where everyone knew the neighborhood gossip; Warner Pathé News before the beginning of each movie where kids under age 13 paid 12 cents to watch Tarzan the Ape Man.

If you go back that far in memories, you should also remember Butch Wax for those with crew cuts, telephone numbers with a word prefix, such as Oive 692. Do you remember Elizabeth Taylor in *Butterfield 8*? You probably owned a pea shooter, watched Howdy Doody and played 45 rpm records. You're getting up in years if you played 78's or wound up the old Victrola.

I remember our icebox had metal trays with levers to remove ice cubes, blue flashbulbs for shooting color film, and I was always losing my roller skate key. We went to drive-ins in Studebakers that looked about the same whether going forward or backward and we stowed a number of things in the 'cubby hole', which is now the glove box or the dash receptacle.

The memory test is over. If you only remember 1-5 of the items, you are probably not old enough to live in Windsor Gardens. Remember 6-10? You're getting older. 11-15, you rarely discuss your age. All 20, you are mature beyond any words of description. You have probably had a good life and are looking forward to the New Year.

Have a great New Year's Eve and a Happy New Year.