

Remember When?

By Hap Hansen

A month or so ago, I wrote an article about things that we may or may not remember as we aged. This time, I write about things that are completely familiar to the elderlies' memory banks. What is interesting is that there are historical facts that young people about to graduate high school do not know or remember. Here are a few:

- The Cold War? What was that? Was it fought in the Arctic?
- A Russian Premier banged his shoe on a desk to get attention? Khrushchev? Who was he?
- Stick shifts in most cars? How did that work? Are they available now?
- Metal caps on pop bottles? Haven't they always been screw-off and plastic?
- Archie and Edith Bunker? I Love Lucy? M.A.S.H.? Never heard of them!
- Gene Autry and Champion? Roy Rogers and Trigger? Ward Bond and Wagon Train? What are you talking about?
- 45 RPM and 33 RPM records pre-date high schoolers. 78's, if they could find them, are now nothing more than Frisbees! But it's OK, because they've never owned a record player and have only heard about 8-tracks.
- They have always had an answering machine and have always had cable. What were those things you called 'rabbit ears'?
- They have probably never seen black and white TV and would not believe we only had 13 channels to watch.
- What do you mean, you didn't have a remote control? How did you change channels?
- Jack Paar? Was he a Senator?
- A key to your roller skates? What for?
- How could you possibly put a 'hard' glass contact lens in your eye?
- They never heard, "Where's the beef," "I'd walk a mile for a Camel," or "De plane, de plane!"
- I'm pretty sure a High School Senior never heard Ed McMahon open the *Tonight Show* with the words, "He-e-e-e-r's Johnnie!!"
- Finally, they have never enjoyed or laughed at Ernie Kovacs and the Nairobi Trio.

I hope this stroll down memory lane doesn't make you feel too old. But even if it does, there is pleasure in knowing that many of us have lived through some of the most exciting times in history. Now we much teach that history to the younger generations.