

Boomers

By Hap Hansen

There has been a lot of discussion about the 'Baby Boomers,' that group of Americans born between 1946 and 1984 and the impact they have had on the American scene. Not much is said about those of us who were born in the thirties and early forties. We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the Pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, ballpoint pens, pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, permanent press and man walking on the moon. In our time, closets were for clothes, not for 'coming out of.' Fast food was what you didn't eat during Lent and outer space was the back of the Paramount Theatre. We preceded house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, group therapy, nursing homes, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-share meant togetherness, not condos, a chip was a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software didn't exist. A 'cubby hole' was where we put gloves in a car, a 5 and 10 cent store was where you bought things for 5 or 10 cents. Ice cream cones were a nickel. For a nickel you could also ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Coke or enough stamps to mail one letter and two penny post cards. A new Chevy coupe cost \$600, but who could afford one? That was a pity because gasoline was only eleven cents a gallon! In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a drink, pot was what you cooked in, rock music was Grandma's lullaby to your baby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. Maybe at our age, we sometimes appear a little confused, but we knew then what to do with what we had and to get along without what we couldn't afford. You must admit we are adaptable because we have survived! What better reason is there to celebrate? Enjoy the rest of your life.