

Passing It On

by Marilyn Reeves

Imagine some gray haired, 30-year old Neanderthal scratching out pictographs on a cave wall, when his attention is diverted by some young whipper-snapper starting a fire by rubbing a couple of sticks together. “Gronk,” he shouts at the kid, “what do you think you’re doing? That’s not the way to do that – you could set the whole cave on fire!”

Fast forward a few thousand years to today’s world. Have you heard the latest? The schools are starting to do away with teaching cursive writing! How the heck are people supposed to scribble out their grocery lists? What will happen to sticky notes – the world’s greatest invention since the ball point pen? What will happen to the ball point pen? I suppose they’ll just enter the items into their i-phones or i-pads or whatever they’ll be using at the time.

For sure kids today don’t know how to spell – although I must admit I can’t spell as well as I used to. Nowadays I have to rely on my Spellcheck, and am appalled at how many words I misspell – let’s see is “appalled” spelled with one P or two? Of course, some of them are just typos – my fingers simply hit the wrong keys, but still ...

I suppose that every generation since the Dawn of Man longs for the Good Old Days as they start getting older. Life was so much simpler, purer, cleaner back when they were growing up. (Never mind the atrocities of war that have always existed, or the lack of food or water or indoor plumbing. And how on earth did our ancestors survive without toilet paper?)

Anyway, the young people always come along and shove the older folks out of the way with their new ideas and so-called “better ways of doing things.” Well, I’d like to teach them a thing or two!

I fear for my granddaughters. What kind of world are they going to be faced with as adults? Will anybody know how to do anything anymore without the aid of technology? What happens when the last person who still knows how to spell is gone and there’s no one around to program Spellcheck? What if the entire cyber-system fizzles out in one huge electronic melt-down? Will people go back to living in caves, scratching pictographs on cave walls? Will they long for the Good Old Days when life was simpler, cleaner, purer? At least I won’t be here to see it happen, but I worry about my granddaughters. I fear for the world. Oh my. It’s so hard to let go and pass it on to the next generation. But then, old folks have been saying that since the beginning of time.