

BYGONE DAYS

By Cindy Peters

What happened to those days? Why don't we ever see children outside anymore at play? Remember playing hopscotch, jacks, teeter ball and 4-square? These days one hardly ever sees children doing these things. I guess kids are too busy now days with video games, television, and their cell phones.

Even the playgrounds we once enjoyed were destroyed as deemed too dangerous. No longer are the May Pole, merry-go-ground, teeter totters and metal monkey bars with cement ground below. Yes, new generations of parents thought their children might be killed by such things. How in the world did so many generation of children survive such devices?

Children these days lack the spontaneity of running over to a friend's home to play. These days there are usually play dates organized by parents. Due to fear of child abductions most children can no longer walk to school. Many children cannot use their neighborhood schools and must be enrolled in charter or private schools to secure a better education. In our current communities and society, it appears that children have much more structure and much less freedom.

I think those bygone days can be best summed up in the lyrics of Mary Hopkin in the song, "Those Were the Days My Friend:"

Those were the days, my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
For we were young and sure to have our way

Then the busy years went rushing by us
We lost our starry notions on the way
If by chance I'd see you in the tavern
We'd smile at one another and we'd say
Those were the days, my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
Those were the days
Oh, Yes, those were the days

Through the door there came familiar laughter
I saw your face and heard you call my name
Oh, my friend, we're older but not wiser
For in our hearts the dreams are still the same

Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
These were the days
Oh, yes those were the days
La la la la la