

We were before the pill and the population explosion which, inexplicably, went hand in hand. We were before television. Before penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and frisbees. Before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Xerox, Kinsey. We were before radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ballpoint pens. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers, a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware was hardware and software wasn't a word.

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for coming out of, and a book about two young women living together in Europe could be called "Our Hearts were Young and Gay". In those days bunnies were small rabbits and Rabbits were not Volkswagens. We were before Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra and cupsizing for bras.

We were before Batman, "The Grapes of Wrath", Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer and Snoopy. Before DDT and vitamin pills, vodka (in the United States) and the white wine craze, disposable diapers, Jeeps & the Jefferson nickel. Before Scotch tape, Grand Coulee Dam, M and M's, the automatic shift and Lincoln Continentals.

When we were in High School, pizzas, Cheesio frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonald's were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent.

We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, Muzak, electronic music and disco dancing.

Almost no one flew across the country and Trans-Atlantic flight belonged to Lindberg and Amelia Earhart. We were before Israel and the United Nations. Before India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iceland and the Philippines were independent countries. Since our graduation, 92 countries 48 of them African - have become independent nations.

We were before polyester and drip-dry clothes. Before ice makers and dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets. Before Hawaii and Alaska became states. Before men wore long hair and earrings, and women wore tuxedos.

We were before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastics, hair dryers, the 40-hour week, the minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was something you drank and pot was something you cooked in.

We were before coin vending machines, jet planes, helicopters and interstate highways. In 1938 "made in Japan" meant junk; and the term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam.

In our time, there were 5-and-10 cent stores where you could buy things for five and ten cents. For just one nickel you could ride the subway or ride the ferry, or make a phone call, or buy a Coke, or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$659., but who could afford that in 1938? Nobody. A pity, too because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

If anyone in those days had asked us to explain CIA, NATO, UFO, JFK, IRS, OR IUD, we would have said Alphabet soup. We were not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but before sex changes. We just made do with what we had. AND SO IT WAS IN 1938