

Legends of Freeborn County
Do you remember the good old yesterdays?

by Bev Jackson

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I remember...

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- when root beer was only a nickel at the A and W.

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- when Dad rolled down the window on the Studebaker so he could hand signal right turn, left turn, or stop.

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- when the Saturday matinee at the Rivoli always included a "cliffhanger" so we had to return next week to see how the hero managed to escape.

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- 29 cent gas purchased at a station on Gasoline Alley.

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- free shows in Clarks Grove and Manchester

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- when my friends and I walked to school, to the beach, to the movies and to the football games.

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- mom fixing a roast beef dinner in the pressure cooker on Sundays.

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- when Gene Autry was a cowboy.

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- our muscle powered lawn mower.

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- when Dad enjoyed fishing in Fountain Lake.

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- when every farm had a chicken house, a machine shed, a barn with a silo, a hog house, a granary, a well house and a grove with worn out machinery.

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- five cent popcorn at Gretchen Sweets.

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- life before drive-up windows.

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- blonde furniture.

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- starched can-cans.

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- when the American Gas Machine Company sponsored a Christmas party for the children of employees and we watched a Laurel and Hardy movie and received a special treat from Santa claus.

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- the excitement of purchasing that first television set

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- when a tractor looked like a tractor.

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- when there were no pizza places in Albert Lea.

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- when mom fried green tomatoes for a special treat.

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- baseball games at Hayek Field.

- - no drugs in school and very little drinking.
- - the 35 cent "Timber" at the North Side Drug Store.
- - driving through the countryside and seeing rows of corn diagonally as well as horizontally.
- - and when "The Yellow Rose of Texas" was number one on the Saturday night hit parade.

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These memories seem almost like yesterday - they're fresh in my mind and they're good. But while I'm reminiscing, I'm also thinking that if I were to tell these stories to my grandchildren, they wouldn't have the faintest idea what I'm talking about. Have our lives really changed that much?

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