

# Outlook on Lifestyle

## Survivors of the '40s should rejoice

Every so often, something anonymous and deliciously entertaining crosses my desk. The following piece, which I have revised and edited, is this sort of creation. I am sharing it with my readers who maintain a well-grounded sense of historical perspective.

For all those people born before 1940, congratulations. We are survivors. Consider the changes we have witnessed.

We were born before television, cellophane tape, digital clocks, Frisbees, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses, penicillin, polio vaccine and The Pill.

We were growing up before radar, microwave ovens, electronic music, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, ballpoint pens, punk rock and pet rocks; before dishwashers, clothes

DR. GOTT



PETER GOTT, M.D.

dryers, air conditioners, electric blankets, drip dry clothes and panty hose. Women wore nylons. Men walked on the moon only in the Buck Rogers comic strip.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not-for coming out of. Bunnies were baby rabbits and rabbits

were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought that fast food was what you ate during Lent; pressure was what was in the pressure cooker when the peas sprayed all over the ceiling. Outer space was the back row of the Lowe's theater.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were out of grammar school before the invention of day-care centers, EST, group therapy and nursing homes. An emergency room was the place in a hospital where we went when we were too badly injured for the doctor to take care of it in the

office. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, word processors, artificial hearts or yogurt. The only guys who wore earrings were pirates in the movies. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums; a chip was a piece of wood. Hardware was hard ware, the stuff we bought in wonderfully acrid-smelling stores with oiled wooden floors. Software wasn't even a word. We associated the smell of burning leaves with autumn, and the smell of moth balls with winter woolens.

In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how we did on exams. Pizza, McDonald's, Gray Panthers, instant coffee and Boy George were unheard of. Cher was a French term of endearment; we know that because Maurice Chevalier told us so.

We hit the scene when there were five and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and 10 cents. Saunders' or Wilson's sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime (double scoop, with sprinkles). For one nickel, you could ride a trolley, make a phone call, purchase a Pepsi or a Nedicks, or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. And they'd arrive on time. You could have a Chevy coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? A pity, too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon.

fashionable, a good meal was based on meat with potatoes and gravy. Grass was mowed (by hand), not smoked; Coke was a cold drink, not an epidemic; and pot was what you boiled the Thanksgiving turkey-bones in to make soup. A leveraged buy-out was how the biggest kid in the neighborhood traded baseball cards. Folk music was Grandma's lullaby. AIDS were helpers in the principal's office. You knew, the minute a Gene Kelly moving picture was released because all the high-school kids started wearing white socks and loafers.

We certainly were not born before the difference in the sexes was discovered, but we surely preceded sex-change operations, breast augmentation and fragrances for men. We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder there's a generation gap today.

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## Dry wood is better for burning

DEAR POLLY — My husband has an opportunity to buy several cords of wood to use in our wood stove next winter. Is it OK to keep the wood that long, and how should it be stored? — HELEN

DEAR HELEN — Now is an ideal time to buy wood for next fall and winter's heating season since it will have ample time to dry or "season" before you need to burn it. Dry wood lights easily and burns hotter than green (freshly cut) wood. It also causes less creosote buildup in chimneys and stove pipes, reducing your chances of a dangerous chimney fire.

Ideally, wood to be seasoned should be stacked off the ground in a covered shed or garage to protect it from wet weather. It will also season if simply stacked outside, but before burning it you will want to store small quantities in a dry area for a few days so it can dry out enough to light easily.

I'm sending you a copy of my newsletter "The Energy Savers Guide," which offers more tips for wood-burners, as well as ways to save on your fuel bills all year round. Others who would like a copy of this issue should send \$1 for each copy to POLLY'S POINTERS, in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 93863, Cleveland, OH 44101-5863. Be sure to include the title. — POLLY

DEAR POLLY — Here is a tip dealing with iron skillets that need a major cleaning. If you have a self-cleaning oven, put your skillet in it during the cleaning cycle and it will come out like new, no matter how corroded it is. You will have to re-season it after each cleaning, but this is easy and gets the job done without a lot of scrubbing. — MATTIE

DEAR POLLY — Although dentists recommend changing to a new toothbrush every three months, how many of us actually mark it down on our calendars? My suggestion to those who are concerned about their oral hygiene is to change to a new toothbrush on the first day of every season — spring, summer, fall and winter. This is an easy way to remember to make a fresh start for the new season. — SUE

POLLY'S POINTERS



POLLY FISHER

DEAR POLLY — My latest discovery is that pierced earrings make good tacks for bulletin boards.

My son suggests cutting paper or cardboard the size and shape of pictures you want to hang and taping them on the wall when deciding how to arrange a grouping. It's much easier than trying to hold up a lot of pictures while one steps back to see how it will look.

I use large coffee filters between good plates when stacking my china in the cupboard. — EUNICE

DEAR EUNICE — All your pointers are great! I especially like your son's easy way to arrange pictures. It's one of those simple ideas that so many of us just don't think of when we need to! Your helpful pointer earns you the Pointer of the Week award, a copy of my book "Polly's Pointers: 1,081 Helpful Hints for Making Everything Last Longer." Others may order it for \$6.50. Make your check payable to POLLY'S POINTERS and send to POLLY'S POINTERS, P.O. Box 93863, Cleveland, OH 44101-5863. — POLLY

DEAR POLLY — I loved your article about getting things done with small children around! It was so heartwarming to read about another mother who sets her priorities — with people ahead of things. I especially liked your thoughts about wearing a baby carrier (mine had a nursing zipper) while doing housework.

Here are a couple of things I do with nurslings around. Doubling meals is the main one — especially if

I make lasagna or another casserole. When I freeze the meal, I use a foil pan so there isn't even a dish to wash.

On really hectic days, I will pull out paper plates, too. Eliminating jobs really helps.

If things are very messy, a paper bag can do wonders. Just run through the house and fill it with the clutter. Sort it later. When company is coming, this really helps! Also, I have found that a picked-up house makes me feel like things are clean. — MARGO

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