



Random Memories.....of the good ole days

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Do you remember when Heck's came to town? On the four lane, they installed a very large sign with the name HECK'S. The large mural on the side of the Talbot's Paint and Glass building, originally was a smiling sun with the message Smile You're Alive! It has been a permanent landmark by over Forty Years. Members of the Talbot Family often repaint it. Once in the Seventies the mural was painted as a rainbow with a different face. The original reason on the smiling sun meant to evoke the bright and hopeful feelings of a sunrise. For recent years more murals has been painted.

The overhead bridge was a true icon. It was built as such to accommodate the railroad. After a huge flood destroyed Elkins, most buildings were built of brick and stone to be more durable. All the streets were paved in neatly laid bricks. I, myself, remember when the streets were still brick. Randolph Avenue got paved with black top first all streets remained brick for several years.

An insurance company, as a way to boost employee morale, invented the smiley face. It was originally invented to be used on buttons and other promotional materials. It caught on and has stayed alive like wild fire. Plus, it highly used just as a way as saying have a nice day to clothing apparel. It has transformed from the single smiley face to

many emotions just look at the image on your face. That phrase became very popular and was used in many conversations.

The same way as the Wendy's commercial, when the little old ladies was at the counter, got their burger and said "Where's The Beef?"

How about one of my all time favorite "Time to make the donuts". The baker got in bed on one side and rolled out the other side saying "Time to make the donuts."

At the top of the covered bridge was a Bakery/Restaurant called "The Donut Shop." Besides the baked goods, they had great food. I would love to know how many Wedding, Anniversary and Birthday cakes that lady made there? In later years they moved to a smaller place near Kroger's.

One day I went to get a pack of one of my favorite chewing gums and they didn't have any and never got it again. It was like none other, it came in a smaller package and was cinnamon flavored. Today they have a cinnamon flavored gum called Big Red, but it's no where the same. Good, but not the same. Other gums I remember was Black Jack, Clove and Beemans.

The South Elkins Bridge. Do you remember anything special about it? How many of you remember Sunbeam Bread? Now do you remember the little blonde haired Sunbeam Bread girl? The billboard there at the end of the bridge featured her for years and years and was in color. The little blonde haired girl was sitting on a rug. Now the amazing thing is

the sign was mechanical and the little girl actually never stopped, it was constantly moving.

The Dairy-Delight at Crystal Springs had something that no one else around had. Not only was it delicious but it was quite unique and it attracted customers. That was the “Foot Long Hotdog.” The Dairy-Delight was a slanted roof structure with a large overhang in the front. It had a large concrete pad and there was a small jukebox. In the cold weather they would enclose this area. There was no sit down seating. Besides the foot long hotdog, I really liked their chicken sandwiches, known as the Whirley-Bird.

As good as the Dairy-Delight was the Tastee-Freeze was more popular. It was the hangout place. It was the large building at Crystal Springs. The driveway circled the building and it had a large semi circular parking lot. I don’t know what time they closed, but I know they were open late on Saturday nights. Most Saturday nights it was 2am or later when my mom and I would get there.

The parking lot was always packed a lot of the times. We had to circle the building a couple of times to find a spot to park. Many cars came and went. The jukebox or some ones car radio was always playing loudly. I don’t remember much about their food except the Fish sandwich. The fish was square and fried crispy and golden. Today I can’t stand fish of any kind, especially not at 2am. LOL

Some of the most popular songs on the jukebox was "Conway Twitty-Hello Darlin, Loretta Lynn's-Coal Miners Daughter, Charlie Prides-Kiss an Angel Good Morning and Jerry Reed's-When your Hot your Hot.

The drive-in Theater was just below and sometimes it was just letting out from a late movie. There was a lot of cars from that, so if the parking lot wasn't full when we got there, it filled up quickly when the drive-in let out.

You seldom saw a police officer. Occasionally they would pass through but never bother anyone. For the most part there wasn't any trouble, but occasionally a few guys wanted to show their selves, a couple of times fists flew, but they normally settled it among themselves and when it was over, it was over. They normally shared a coke together. LOL

It's the early 70's, you are watching tv and an animated white gloved hand with a face comes across the screen. It was a commercial for Hamburger Helper claiming that you can make a hearty, one pan meal from one pound of hamburger and the contents of this box. The commercial claimed to make meals easier and help with food budgets by using the helping hand.

Shag carpet was advertised as ultra soft, deep pile of carpet with long loose yarn strands that made to give it a shaggy look. There was a special tool for it, called a rake. Most people loved it, but I for one thought it to be ugly and dirty. I never had the desire to have it.

A nice quiet entertaining piece (toy) was one of my very favorites then and still fascinates me now. It was the “kaleidoscope.” It was a long cylinder with a small peep hole in one end. Inside there was a sequence of mirrors and colored fragments. When the cylinder was turned it created a number of changing patterns.

Another quiet entertaining toy for us was the “View Master.” It was a hand held 3D viewer the projected images from a circular reel, originally it was scenic views and educational. Later there was cartoon reels.

For families with children especially more than one or two, the station wagon was the vehicle of choice for their family. We would load up with a picnic lunch and just drive around, we almost always took Gram with us. Lots of times we would stop at a roadside park. There was a lot of them, back then. We like many others, would just pull over to the side of the road and mom would pull out a blanket and spread it on the ground. The food went on the tailgate of the car. Seems like we always had fun and adventures.

I have always been intrigued by the world of magic. From card tricks to sawing a woman in half. Also, the Fortune Teller with her crystal ball, mostly the thing I loved about the Fortune Teller was the long nails, bracelets, rings and all the jewelry.

When I was young they came out with the Magic 8 Ball. It was filled with a dark liquid and had a 20 sider die with various yes, no, maybe and other short answers. You would ask it a question, turn the ball over and wait for the answer to appear in the window. Sometimes it would say “un certain or Don’t count on it.

I would make my room dark as possible and put on my dime store jewelry and dress the part and Teri would be my client! LOL What imaginations.

Etch-a-sketch has changed a small amount but just like the automobile, the concept is the same. It only comes in one color. So you can chose red, red or red. It is a non-digital drawing toy. There is a screen and 2 knobs used to move a stylus inside the box. You can erase your art and create more simply by turning the Etch-a-sketch upside down and shaking it.

How frustrated did you get with the cassette tape? You could record on both sides of it. The problem was if it got caught it pulled out and became a tangled mess. If your lucky you could insert a pencil into one of the holes an re-spool it. Now the 8 track was another animal in its self. Generally if it pulled out, it was done for. You might just as well throw it in the trash.

Words Of Wisdom

Never let the things you want make you forget the things you have!

