

LESSON IN LIVING

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

Elma Allen Milano

Let's think back on what we are missing in today's world that we used to enjoy in the past. Here are a few of my memories. I feel sure you can add to the list:

PUPPET SHOWS: I always thought these were fun, didn't you? Perhaps this has led to the enjoyment of viewing puppets on television.

ACCORDION BANDS: Having been a member of an accordion band I can vouch for the thrill we had making music together. It was great playing solos, but being with others greatly magnified my excitement.

VAUDEVILLE SHOWS: It was fun to spend all day long on Saturdays, eating popcorn, watching black & white movies with vaudeville acts between. However, my greatest thrill came from being a vaudeville *performer*; I remember well striding confidently out onto a big stage as the curtains opened and the applause greeted my ears; it was truly exciting!

DANCE HALLS: When I first viewed the old movie, "Marty," it reminded me of when we used to have large dance halls. One was called the Palladium. Next to viewing movies, dancing was our most popular recreation.

ICE CREAM SODAS: How long since we've enjoyed sitting at a counter, ordering an ice cream soda and watching the soda jerk make our concoction? My favorite was a chocolate soda made with chocolate ice cream. Because I am a chocoholic, I would oversee the process to be sure it had enough syrup in it, yum!

ROOT BEER STANDS: The first experience I had with a root beer stand was when I came to Arizona to visit my cousins during a sweltering summer. I was thirsty and thought that drink was the best thing I had ever tasted! (I think they served "A&W Root Beer.")

CORNER GAS STATIONS: Most city street corners had a gas station where attendants wore ties. They would rush out and put gas in your tank as they filled your radiator with water and washed all of your car windows. Talk about service!

As I enjoy my senior years, I appreciate the fact that I can remain at home writing and remembering my fond memories. I also ask myself: "Where have they gone?"

This was written in 2008 when Elma was 88-years-old. The entire Lesson in Living series is on lintonmilano.com.