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# The Times They Are A-Changin'

By Dale Nicolls

Grandpa Nicolls (Carl) was born in 1900. Grandma Nicolls (Ethel) was born in 1902. Here are some inventions and lifestyle changes that occurred between 1900 and 1955.

- **1900** – the Kodak Brownie camera was introduced. Grandma got a lot of use from it.
- **1902** – Willis Carrier invented the first modern electrical air-conditioning system. Carl & Ethel's DeSoto that they bought in 1947 had air conditioning.
- **1903** – The Wright brothers, of Dayton Ohio, achieved the first sustained, controlled flights at Kitty Hawk.
- **1913-1914** – Henry Ford's assembly line for the Model T made cars affordable and scalable. In 1920, oxen were used to widen Main St. in Poland. The first car that Carl & Ethel bought was in 1924. They bought a Ford Model T Tudor Sedan for $745.
- **1920s** – the television was invented. Carl & Ethel did not buy one until **1953**. It was a Motorola for $352.73.
- **1928** – Carl & Ethel got a Chambers gas range.
- **1935** – the basement bathroom was put in for $191.58. That would indicate that they had indoor plumbing. Indoor plumbing existed before 1900 but it was not common in houses until later.
- **1936** – a Holland Vaporaire heating system was installed at 26 Delaware. It was a coal burning furnace. My Dad was still able to shake down the coals to the tune of "Dad's Old Fashioned Root Beer". It was not until after WW II that they got a gas furnace.
- **1939** – a linoleum floor was put down in the kitchen at 26 Delaware. In **1945**, linoleum was put in the bathroom.
- **1947** – the transistor was invented at Bell Labs. However in 1947, Carl and Ethel bought a G. E. radio and phonograph model 326 ($257). This model used the old tubes.
- **1947** – Carl and Ethel bought a DeSoto Custom Sedan for $2,130.64 with a radio, heater and air-conditioning! What??? We didn't have air conditioning in our cars from the 50s and 60s.
- **1949** – a Republic Gas Furnace was installed at 26 Delaware for $275.
- **1953** – The kids bought Grandma an RCA Estate Gas Range on November 3, just in time for Thanksgiving!

The grandkids of Carl & Ethel were born between 1946 and 1967. Here are some inventions and lifestyle changes that occurred between 1955 and 2010. I picked 1955 as the dividing line because it is the average of the grandkids birth years.

- **1958** – NASA was established and the race to the moon was on!
- **1958–1959** – the integrated circuit / microchip was developed which laid the foundation for the tech revolution.
- **1969** – Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Neil Armstrong took the first step on the moon.
- **1975** – Microsoft was founded.
- **1976** – Apple was founded. They came out with the Apple II computer in **1977**.
- **1979** – Sony came out with the Walkman.
- **1984** – Apple came out with the Macintosh personal computer.
- **1984-85** – Texting was developed as a concept. The first text was sent in **1992**. By 2007 texting occurred more often than phone calls.
- **1985** – Microsoft Windows was introduced.
- **1991** – The world wide web was publicly released. It was usually accessed by a modem which would take minutes to hours to download today's pictures and websites.
- **1990s** (mid to late) – email became common. AOL had the familiar voice saying "You've got mail". Long distance calls were paid by the minute. Long conversations could cost a significant amount of money. Email was cheap.
- **1998** – Google was founded.
- **2000** – about this time GPS became available for civilians. In the "old times" we would stop at a gas station and pick up maps of the states we were about to enter on our long trips out west. GPS eliminated the need for the driver to yell at the person in the passenger seat who was responsible for reading the map and giving verbal directions while driving through Los Angeles or other large cities.
- **2004** – Facebook (mom book) launched.
- **2005** – YouTube launched.
- **2007** – the first generation iPhone was released. Boomers did not grow up with a cell phone in their hand.
- **2010** – the first iPad was released.