

# The class of 1929 B.C. **[Before Computers]**

**Don Cox**

We were before the pill and the population explosion, which inexplicably went hand in hand. We were before television, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, and frisbees. Before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Xerox, Kinsey, and radar. Before fluorescent lights, credit cards, ball



*Past Presidents of the Society for Range Management Ed McKinnon and Don Cox (author) wearing Bison wool jackets*

point pens, and man walking on the moon. For us time sharing meant togetherness, not computers or vacation homes. A chip was a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word!

In our time closets were for clothes not coming out of. In those days bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. We were before Grandma Moses, Frank Sinatra, and falsies. Before DDT, vitamin pills, the white wine craze, disposable diapers, Jeeps, and the Jefferson nickel. Before Batman, Grapes of Wrath, Rudolf

the rednosed reindeer, and Snoopy. Before Scotch tape, Grand Coulee dam, M&M's, the automatic shift, four wheel drive vehicles, the Lincoln Continental, and radial tires. If you were real lucky tires might last 20,000 miles, and oil was changed every 500 miles (no filters).

When we were in college Pizzas, Cheerio's, frozen orange juice, instant coffee, and McDonalds were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, and disco.

Almost no one flew across the country and trans-Atlantic flight belonged to Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart. Before Israel, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iceland, and the Philippines become independent countries. Since our time, 92 countries (48 in Africa) have become independent. Before Alaska and Hawaii became states, United Nations, ice-makers dishwashers, home freezers, electric blankets, panty hose, and drip dry clothes. Before men wore ear-rings and long hair and women wore tuxedos. Before Ann Landers, most plastics, hairdryers, 40-hour week, minimum wage, and jet planes. Before coin vending machines, helicopters, interstate highways, performance testing, A I, crossbreeding, and space travel. If anyone had asked us to explain CIA, NATO, NFL, ERA, or IUD, we would have said alphabet soup.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a soft drink, and pot was a kettle one cooked in. Made in Japan meant JUNK, making out referred to how you did in an exam. To our shame schools were not desegregated and blacks were not allowed to play in the major leagues. There were 5 & 10 cent stores selling things for that price. For a nickel one could ride the subway or ferry, buy a "coke", make a phone call, or buy enough stamps to mail a letter and two post cards. A new Model A Ford coupe with "rumble seat" could be bought for 680 dollars if you had that much. That was a pity too, because gasoline was eleven cents per gallon.

We were not before differences in the sexes were discovered but before sex changes. We just made do the way we were. **WE GOT MARRIED AND THEN LIVED TOGETHER.**

How quaint can you be!!! **AND SO IT WAS IN 1929.**