

## **Session 33: ALL THE KIDS OF THE 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with brightly colored lead-base paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps not helmets, on our heads. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes. Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

Our parents all smoked, in the house, in the car, in restaurants, at work and just about all of the time. And yet, we're still here. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from a single bottle, and nobody died. We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, bacon, and meat and potatoes. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And, we weren't overweight. WHY?

Because we were always outside playing..... that's why! Not watching TV, playing computer games or using cell phones to talk to or text people. We had friends and we went outside and played with them! We would leave home in the morning and play all day. And our parents didn't worry about us unless we weren't home by the time the streetlights came on.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we solved the problem. We rode bikes, we fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. If we broke the law our parents didn't bail us out. They sided with the law!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. We were given BB guns, we made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and we ran with scissors and nobody poked an eye out. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and we didn't get sick.

We had the freedom to try new things, to succeed and to fail, and we had responsibilities. And we learned how to deal with it all. These generations produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever. They invented and developed the communications, computer systems and other technologies so common today. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

If YOU were one of these kids, CONGRATULATIONS! You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives and took the fun out of it.

You might want to forward this to your kids and grandkids so they will know how brave and lucky their parents were. And what it was like in the real world.