



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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My generation was the first generation of children who grew up with television. It was also the first to be influenced by commercials.

I remember that day when Dad brought in a floor-model black and white RCA television. It arrived at our house just a few days before Christmas when I was about 6 or 7 years old. We were so excited.

This was the first television set we had basically ever seen except for pictures of them. I thought it was gold; I think it was a 19" screen and it could be turned from side to side. Unlike radio it was amazing to actually see who was talking to you. (In my child mind, I couldn't understand why they couldn't see me), LOL. But it was just the greatest thing since sliced bread, (so to speak).

When all our friends and cousins came over we would gather around the TV on the floor, with our legs crossed, waiting for those words: "Hey kids, what time is it?" Of course, it was "Howdy Doody Time!"

I enjoyed the program so much and got caught

Our First Television

up in the commercials too. I wanted Fifth Avenue and Milky Way candy bars. I saved Milky Way candy wrappers and sent for a free doll. I also wanted a Howdy Doody glass filled with grape jelly that was engraved with one of the character faces on the bottom. Since Mom made her own jelly I never did get the Howdy Doody glass. Kids collected "Frogmen" hid inside the box of Kellogg's Corn Flakes, and Cracker Jacks had the best toys.

Next thing was cereal they advertised. I begged for a box of Kix cereal to help me grow up strong. I was such a skinny kid, I even drank Weight On as a teenager; now since I've turned 50 plus, I can't lose weight. I gagged at the taste of Kix cereal and still do. I also wanted the cereal they advertised on TV where you found prizes in the cereal.

Saturday morning cartoons were great too. Bugs Bunny, and Tom and Jerry were the best and I still watch them. These cartoons entertained kids for hours.

Bob, my husband watched a lot of TV when he was little. He loved Popeye. He decided he wanted to be strong like Popeye and begged and begged his grandmother to buy him a can of spinach. Well, she told him she would but he had to eat every bite of it. His grandmother fixed it and he took one bite and knew it would be a long night . . . he tried and tried to eat it and just couldn't . . . he sat at the table staring

at the plate of spinach from supertime till 11 p.m. Finally, he was allowed to go bed. No Popeye boy here! He believes his grandmother snuck the spinach in her vegetable soup made the next day.

Oh! And Dad would not miss the NBC nightly news with Chet Huntley/ New York and David Brinkley/ Washington. They were legends.

On Saturday, I watched the program, My Fried Flicka, a horse, The Roy Rogers Show with Trigger, and also liked National Velvet, which was a great horse movie. My favorite westerns were Gunsmoke in 1955 and Bonanza that premiered in 1959. I loved Adam Cartwright on that show. He was a dream boat.

Ed Sullivan was the favorite Sunday night show that profiled up and coming stars. Especially, Elvis Presley, but he was not allowed to be shown on TV below the waist because of his hip gyrations.

The Beatles also premiered on the Ed Sullivan Show. I believe every teenager in the 60's loved the Beatles. I know I did. "I Wanna Hold Your Hand!" (My Favorite Song).

Today, TV reveals too much; some of outfits on the Oscars were slit to the waist and barely cover their bottom. My, my how 50 years has changed so much. Our world has become too tolerant of these things. Today, parents have to monitor television for their kids. Who would have thought that would have happened?

Bartender's parrot recognizd nearly everyone in church



America's Heartland
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I heard a tale the other day about a fellow who sold his tavern to a local church.

The enthusiastic congregation replaced the bar and stools with pews, installed new lighting and gave the walls a fresh coat of paint. Amid all the hustle and bustle, they didn't realize the bartender had left his parrot behind.

The bird was perched in the rafters for the first Sunday service.

When the preacher walked in, the parrot screeched: "New owner."

When choir members took their places, the bird exclaimed: "New floor show."

Then the parrot turned around and got a look at the congrega-

tion and squawked: "Same old crowd."

Unfortunately, there's a great deal of truth to that old joke in that far too many people who go to church have no hesitation about hanging out in other places they ought not go. However, you have to keep in mind that just because someone goes to church doesn't mean he or she is a Christian. Think about it. Does hanging out at McDonalds make you a hamburger? Does hanging out at the dog pound make you a Poodle? Does hanging out in a women's clothing store make you a blouse?

A most miraculous thing must happen before people become Christians. They must be born again and enter into a personal relationship with Jesus. When that happens, a marvelous change takes place in their lives. They lose their desires for things of this world and they begin to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Perhaps some of the most encouraging words Christians can find in the entirety of the Bible are found in the book of Ephesians, where we're

told that Jesus gave his life for the church. The blood He shed on Mount Calvary was for the washing away of sins, so "that He might present to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it would be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

That means Christians should only engage in activities that allow them to remain clean and holy and unblemished. The Bible says Christians are to steer clear of unwholesome, wicked activities.

"Flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11).

That bartender's parrot might have recognized the "same old crowd" in that bar. That may have been because the "same old crowd" was made up of faithful churchgoers but not faithful Christians.

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Little black dog had killed more than its share of grizzly bears

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DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF SAFETY

Follow these tips for a safe holiday season.

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Here are some easy ways to ensure that you deck your halls free from fires, falls and fears:

- Never plug more than three standard-size sets of lights into an extension cord.
- Extension cords can occasionally overheat. Periodically touch-test the cord. If it's hot, unplug it.
- Elevate outdoor extension cords' plugs and connectors with a brick to keep snow, water and debris out of the connections.
- Make sure your smoke detectors are in working order.
- It's lights out at bedtime and when you leave your house. That includes lights on your tree and other decorations. Lights can short and start a fire.

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