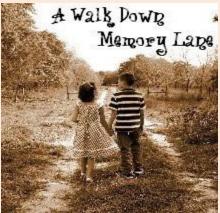
## EARLIER THIS YEAR, A FEW OF MY FRIENDS, MYSELF INCLUDED, REACHED A MILESTONE



BIRTHDAY AND THOUGHT I WOULD PASS THIS ALONG. WAS DOUBLE DARED TO DO JUST THAT!!!!

> REMEMBER WHEN: All the girls had ugly gym uniforms? It took three minutes for the TV to warm up? Nobody owned a purebred dog? When a quarter was a decent allowance? You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny? Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?

You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas Pumped, without asking, all for free, every time? And you didn't pay for air? And, you got trading Stamps to boot? Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels Hidden inside the box?

It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to Dinner at a real restaurant with your parents? They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and they did it!

When a 57 Chevy was everyone's dream car... To cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady

No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked?

Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, 'that cloud looks like a...'?

Playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game? Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?

And with all our progress, don't you just wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savor the slower pace,

and share it with the children of today.

When being sent to the principal's office was nothing Compared to the fate that awaited the student at home?

Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat!

But we survived because their love was greater than the Threat.

As well as summers filled with bike rides, Hula Hoops, and visits to the pool, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar.

Didn't that feel good, just to go back and say, 'Yeah, I remember that'?

I am sharing this with you today because it ended with a Double Dog Dare to pass it on. To remember what a Double Dog Dare is, read on. And remember that the perfect age is somewhere between old enough to know better and too young to care.

Send this on to someone who can still remember Howdy Doody and The Peanut Gallery, the Lone Ranger, the Shadow knows, Nellie Bell, Roy and Dale, Trigger and Buttermilk.

> How Many Of These Do You Remember? Candy cigarettes Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles. Coffee shops with Table Side Jukeboxes. Blackjack, Clove and Teaberry chewing gum. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers. Newsreels before the movie. Telephone numbers with a word prefix... (Yukon 2-601). Party lines. Peashooters. Hi-If's & 45 RPM records. 78 RPM records! Green Stamps. Mimeograph paper. The Fort Apache Play Set.

Do You Remember a Time when decisions were made by going 'eeny-meeny-miney-moe'? Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, 'Do Over!'? 'Race issue' meant arguing about who ran the fastest?

> Catching the Fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening? It wasn't odd to have two or three 'Best Friends'? Having a Weapon in School meant being caught with a Slingshot?

Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute commercials for action figures? 'Oly-oly-oxen-free' made perfect sense? Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down was cause for giggles? The Worst Embarrassment was being picked last for a team?

War was a card game? Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle? Taking drugs meant orange - flavored chewable aspirin? Water balloons were the ultimate weapon?

If you can remember most or all of these, Then You Have Lived!!!!!!! Pass this on to anyone who may need a break from their 'Grown-Up' Life. . I Double-Dog-Dare-Ya!

