

## We Had It So Good

The phone was mounted on the kitchen wall, a rotary dial and a twenty-five-foot cord to reach all around the house that you had to duck under while a family member used the phone.

The TV had three networks and possibly one local station brought in by “rabbit-ears” on the top. No VHS player, or DVD or Blu-ray. Channel surfing was getting up from the sofa to switch from the current station to one of the other three. The Guide, came in a little book or the Sunday paper for you to see what was on a given day/night/week.

The transistor radio blared music in mono, no stereo, from an AM station. One or two available. No FM. Top 100 music unless you wanted to listen to what your parents had on the house radio.

The car was a heavy, hopefully automatic, not stick, usually four-door sedan. Power steering and power brakes were a luxury. Power windows were a decadent luxury. Also had only an AM radio, no FM, no XM, no 8-track, Cassette or CD player of any kind, a single speaker in the dash with a “welt beater” antenna sticking up on the fender.

The computer was a desktop calculator that could process numbers to balance the checkbook.

Microwave was something the Russians were doing to us, according to the science guy.

Watches were basic wind-up types that needed to be actually wound up to run, with faux leather bands that simply told you the time with analog hands.

A book was something you held in your hands. And physically turned the page to read the story. As was a magazine, whether it was informational, a comic book or a certain genre and were scattered about the house for your reading pleasure.

An email was a hand written letter that you stuck in an envelope, placed a stamp on, mailed to someone and hopefully received a response.

A text was something that you brought to school every day.

Social media was gathering in the halls between classes to mingle.

And yet, we thought we had it so good!