

*"Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day." ~ Winnie the Pooh*

In 1964-1965 it was the simple life. When I was growing up my mom didn't have to tell me to go outside to find things to do. My friends and I were always on an adventure exploring the neighborhood and beyond. We built a lot of what we used or our dads and brothers did. We made skateboards nailing old 2x4 Douglas fir to metal skates. We would go to the nearest neighborhood grocery store and pick up all the cardboard in the back of the building. We would flatten it out and run up the nearest grassy hill and use the cardboard to slide down it like a sled. We'd get to the bottom bumped and bruised, but get right back up and do it all over again. The same hill we used to play King of the Hill. All the neighborhood kids would play. That same hill area we used to pull grass clods out and have big grass clod wars. Now we would need an EIR to do all of those things I just said. But it was simple fun.

We rode our bikes all over and used our makeshift skateboards to go down to the local bowling alley. We'd just hang out, play pinball. We'd pick up our newspapers that were dropped off for our paper routes and then we would deliver them. Before we'd deliver them we'd read comic books, drink Cokes, and watch the girls go by across the street going to the grocery store. While we were wrapping the papers we had rubber band fights. We made good money on our routes and with most of the money we made we just had fun.

We did all the simple games at that time. We played hide-and-go-seek, capture the flag, we'd hang out together and make plastic model planes and cars from the hobby store. We used wood burning sets, we'd build huge erector sets, and we played with our vibrating football games. After school and on weekends we would go to play on the jungle gym and the swings. We played marbles, had yo-yos, Slinkies, cap guns, slingshots, and hung out watching the girls play hop scotch, dodge ball, two-square, four-square, kickball, jump rope and Chinese jump rope, and they would bring their Barbie dolls. I hear Barbie is going to be 50 years old. She's looking pretty good still, and I think she's still dating Ken.

We also would watch the bigger kids in the neighborhood ride their Honda and Yamaha 50's and mini bikes up and down the streets of the neighborhood. My friends and I all wanted to be like them, and couldn't wait to save enough money to buy our first really boss motorbike. We could not wait until summer to go to the local pool. We went there every day and most of the bigger kids would take us with them. We would swim and they, for some reason, would hang out with the girls. We just loved diving off the diving board.

What I liked most about going to the school was the recreation leaders. They were really like our heroes. They were our role models and they were our big kid friends. We looked up to them and yeah, sure, some of the teachers we liked as well.

Gosh, I had a crush on my teacher Mrs. Kerr and my previous teacher Mrs. Postel. She was my all-time favorite teacher. She stayed with me after school every day to help me learn to read. They are great memories – all of them.

In Oroville we are fortunate enough to have the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, the Axiom, and Feather River Recreation and Park District to provide neighborhood kids a place to go and participate in constructive programming. In this age it is so simple still to walk outside your house and enjoy simple fun such as taking your skateboard or your bike to the Skate and Bike Park, taking your disc to the Disc Golf Course, walking your dog at Riverbend Park and along the bike trail, playing baseball at the Nolan or Nelson Complex, or playing on the equipment at Playtown Park, Rotary Park or Hammon Park.

Go out your door, go to the park, and enjoy the simple life.

### **Quote**

I wish I were a poet so I could express  
What I'd, what I'd like to say yeah  
I wish I were an artist so I could paint a picture  
Of how I feel, of how I feel today.

~ Lyrics from Nancy Wilson's "How Glad I Am"

### **Question**

Congratulations to Jan Bales and Mike Andrews for their correct answer to the following question: What project was built by the Red Cross for swimming lessons at Bedrock Park? The answer was the kiddie pool. Mike actually worked as a lifeguard at Bedrock Park in the 1950's, and says that he had to fill and drain the kiddie pool every day. They each won \$30 for their correct answer. Congratulations!

### **Fun Facts**

*Barbie® Goes to College* was introduced in 1964.

On July 2, 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark piece of legislation in the United States that outlawed racial segregation in schools, public places, and employment.

The Beatles were given the award for Best New Artist at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards held in 1965.

In 1965, a Honda 50 Motor Scooter sold for around \$215. The cost of a gallon of regular gas was 31 cents.

**Upcoming Events**

Booth space is still available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Wildflower and Nature Festival on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Call FRRPD at 533-2011 for more info.

*See you in the parks!*