

THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society

Remembering 1970

The top movies

- Patton
- Mash
- The Aristocrats
- Kelly Heros
- Little Big Man
- Tora! Tora! Tora!
- The Out of Towners
- Love Story
- Airport
- Chisum

The Top Songs

- Bridge Over Troubled Waters/
Simon and Garfunkel
- Close to You/ the Carpenters
- American Woman/ The Guess
Who
- Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My
Head/ B. J. Thomas
- War/Edwin Starr
- Ain't No Mountain High
Enough/Diana Ross



January, 2020

Wow! I can remember writing January, 1970. Has it really been 50 years ago?

I used to have this ongoing discussion with my dad about how things had changed for my grandmother. She was born in the 1880s and lived to be 94 years old. She grew up in a small, remote Scottish village where oxen were the main mode of transportation. By the time she was 35 she had made two ocean voyages to the United States and had four children. She had witnessed the invention of cars and airplanes and the widespread use of the telephone and the phonograph. By the time of her death, in 1976, she was watching television and using the microwave to heat water for her afternoon tea.

In 1970, I was naive enough to believe we had reached the pinnacle. What could there possibly be left to invent that would come close to the changes my grandmother had witnessed?

Fifty years ago we were still talking about Apollo 11, the first manned mission to land on the moon. (July 20, 1969). The big Christmas toy was Snoopy Astronaut, along with matchbox cars, Barbies and electronic sports games. Popular board games were Mouse Trap, Uncle Wiggly and Candy Land. In 1970 the Nerf ball was released by Parker Brothers and by Christmas more than 4 million had been sold, making it the number one toy of the year.

Historical Society Meeting

January 23, 2020

Join us for a pot luck
dinner at 6:00 pm
followed by our program
and meeting. Hope you
can attend.

Love Story by Erich Segal was at the top of the New York Times Best Seller List for Oct 25, 1970. It was also the number one bestselling novel of that year with **The French Lieutenant's Woman** by John Fowles in second place.

Visit our website

www.grainvalleyhistory.com

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

Valley News

Grain Valley's Community Newspaper

So what was left that would change my world? Oh my goodness, where do I start. From a world that was yet to encounter pet rocks, hacky sack, post-it notes or the Rubik's cube to today's world of talking hearing aids and gravity blankets, much has changed.

In the 1970s we got email, "big" mobile phones, Apple II, the Sony Walkman, digital cameras and floppy disk. In the 1980s we got cellular phones, Microsoft Windows, compact disc, and high definition television. The 1990s brought us the World Wide Web, or the internet as we know it today. It also brought us text messages, with a new language that was heavy on —lol, omg and bff. And don't forget Nintendo 64, DVDs and Tickle Me Elmo. In the first decade of the 21st century we got Bluetooth, the first e-reader Kindle, the USB Flash Drive, Bose noise-cancelling headphones, and the Sony Playstation 3. In 2010 Steve Jobs gave us I-pads.

All of this and I haven't even touch on inventions in transportation, health and medicine, bioengineering, green energy, clothing, the military or robots; who can forget robots! Did you know that in 2011 someone invented a Bed Bug Detective. While some inventions are life changing, let's face it, others are simply inventions to make life easier or more fun!

In any case, while today's changes may seem less dramatic, they are definitely affecting our creature comforts, perhaps none as radically as the advances in medicine. So as you look forward to a new year and a new decade, reflect on the nostalgic past but embrace all that 2020 has in store for you.



Did I mention, No. 6 Mizzou played in the Orange Bowl on January 1, 1970. Unfortunately, they lost to No. 2 Penn State!