

**PART OF SPEECH FROM VAUGHN STIMBERT AT MESSICK HIGH SCHOOL  
REUNION**

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We have now come to that part of the program for awards for the famous and the infamous, the dubious achievement awards as it were. We are talking about changes, and we have seen a few.

Consider this: The graduates of the 50's were before the pill and the population explosion (probably not unrelated events). We were before VCR's, Xerox, Polio vaccines, Frisbees, and computers... Before VISA, Master Card, and polyester. For us time-sharing meant togetherness, not vacation homes. A chip meant a piece of wood...hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word. There were no miniskirts, bikinis, nor drip-dry clothes. For some of us, there weren't even TVs. Ice makers, dishwashers, and disposable diapers had not yet arrived. It was before men wore long hair and jewelry and women wore the pants. In our time closets were for clothes, not for coming out of. In those days bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Beetles were insects, and heavy metal was machinery. We were before Peyton Place, Jaws, Rocky, and Snoopy...before yogurt, yuppies, and flower children. We married first and then lived together. We remember when air was clean and sex was dirty.

When we were at Messick, McDonald's had a farm and not a billion plus hamburgers. We thought fast food was what you ate during lent. Smoking was in style, and grass was what you mowed. Coke was only a drink, and pot was what you cooked in. We were before day care centers, house husbands, computer dating, and dual careers. A five and dime was a store where you could really buy something for five or ten cents. A nickel would buy you a coke or the Commercial Appeal, mail a letter, or pay for a phone call. Twenty-nine cents would buy a gallon of gasoline, and we drove around and around and back and forth from Berettas to the Town and Country to Fortune's Jungle Garden, to the Pit.

Vaughn E. Stimbert  
Master of Ceremonies

Some ideas from Rose Marie Weber Manning "A Different World, but in Many Ways the Best of Times"