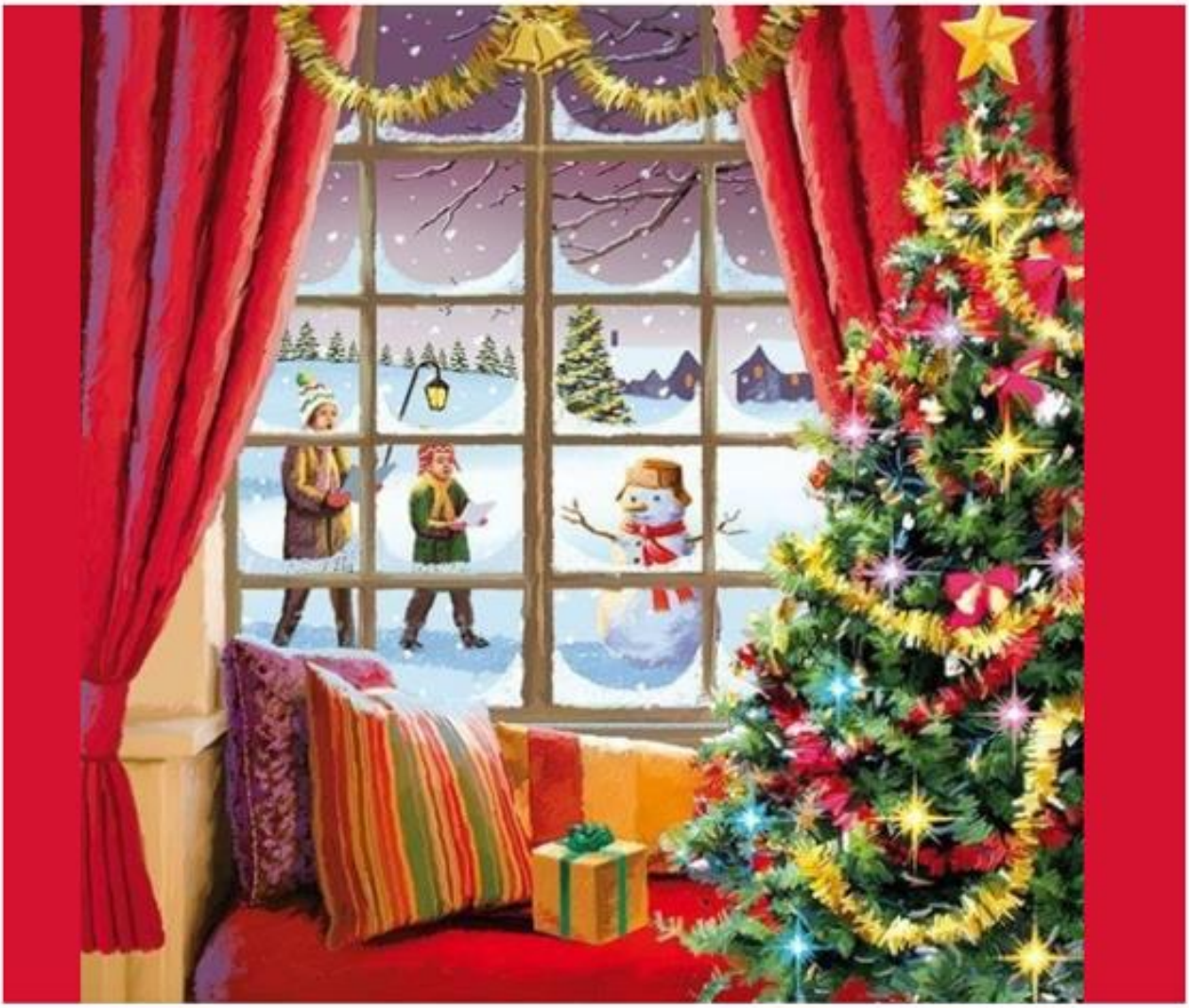
The Cauldron

District 14-B Monthly Newsletter

December 2023



Merry Christmas

December 7- -December 15

Happy Kwanzaa

The Symbols of Kwanzaa

December 26 – January 1

Merry Christmas

December 25

From the desk of
District Governor Chris Raynak

Greetings fellow Lions of District 14-B

Welcome to "The Most Wonderful Time of The Year"!

During this time, among other activities, we exchange gifts. As Lions, we are very fortunate that we have the opportunity to give gifts ALL YEAR ROUND. We get to give the gift of improved sight and hearing through our eyeglass and hearing aid programs for those who otherwise would not be able to afford them. We make summer vacations possible for those who might not be able to have one through our support of Beacon Lodge. We help feed those who might otherwise go hungry through our generous support of the area food banks, and distribution of food baskets. We are helping diabetes patients through our support of the **L**ions **D**iabetes **B**oard of **A**llegheny and **W**estmoreland to battle a disease that negatively affects the quality of life for patients and has a staggering impact on our healthcare costs.

Yes, Christmas has been greatly commercialized but so much good comes about this time of year. The one thing about goodness, the good that we do, is that it never goes away. It never dies. It lives on in other people, at other times. So, it should be with us. Giving isn't always about the giving of a tangible item - it's the giving of one's well wishes, of memories, of compassion, and of hope.

Thank you to all the clubs that provide such great service this time of year whether it is ringing the Red Kettle Bell or serving food at the Soup Kitchen or singing Carols at the Nursing Home or donations to one of the many Toy Drives in the area. That is goodness. That is what the Lions Do.

Club Presidents and Secretaries - Please review the Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award instructions and application included in this newsletter. This is an opportunity to recommend a Lion from your club to be honored. I hope to see many applications because I have met many Lions that are deserving of this prestigious award. We need those by Dec. 24th so we can submit them to the PA Counsellors by the end of the year.

Lion Mary and I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and all the blessings of the Season. Peace.

It's great to be a LION,
Changing the World

Chris Raynak
email: cpr14b2021@outlook.com
phone: 412.951.6328

LION MIKE CROSSEY
First Vice District Governor

Fellow Lions,

Let me begin with happy holidays.

However, you celebrate. I wish you and yours the best this holiday season.

For me, I celebrate the blessings in my life: my wife-my family- my health- all my good fortune. I truly am lucky, and the holiday season is a time to be grateful. I try to express that with an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE, and a penchant for sharing.

As Lions we have much to share: our rich history, our commitment to community, and our willingness to serve. This is the picture I saw when I first met my Bridgeville Area Lions.

I was committed from day one.

I knew I wanted to make a difference, with people who want to make a difference, doing things that make a difference.

Thomas Jefferson once said:

"A candle loses nothing when it lights another candle."

So, let's look at this holiday season as a time to light candles.

At home- with friends- in our communities- and with fellow and future Lions.

Let our Candle be the Light that Guides the Way.

My wife Eileen and Y wish you Happy holidays!

Lion Michael J. Crossey

Email: Crosseymike@gmail.com
Phone: 412.983.8387

LION RALPH IMBROGNO
Second Vice District Governor

Dear Fellow Lions,

One thing we know for certain is that the Lions Clubs in District 14B are slowly going in the wrong direction, and we are losing members just about every month. With that being said, we need to make an effort to reverse that trend. Member retention as well as recruiting new members has become a serious issue.

This is why I firmly believe we need to begin thinking OUT OF THE BOX and come up with new ideas to help retain current members as well as bring in new members.

The sign campaign that we recently implemented is a start to bringing in new members, but we must continue to think of new, out-of-the-box, ways to reverse the losing trend.

Last year we had billboards placed in strategic areas on some main highways, and hopefully, that effort brought in some new members. This year the Lions District14B cabinet members are seriously considering some radio time to recruit new members.

On December 6, 2023, at 2:00 PM the District Governor Team will be on a talk show that will air for 30 minutes on radio 620 AM KHB TALK RADIO. On the following Sunday, Dec. 10th at 7:30 AM, the taped version of the talk show will be on 620 AM again, and on 4 other stations. These 4 other stations are 103.1, 103.9, KFB 97.5, WEDO 93.3. The main purpose is to cover what the Lions Clubs do and some important facts about the history and principles of Lionism. We feel that airing on the talk show will help to make the Lions Clubs more visible. The Cabinet is also considering some 30-second radio spots to help increase the membership as well as help with membership retention. We are currently looking for some funding to cover the costs of radio time. The talk show time coming up in a few weeks is at no charge. We welcome any ideas and input on the membership issue!!

My wife Patty and I WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER!!!

Lion Ralph Imbrogno

Email: ralphpatty@verizon.net
Phone: 412-751-2039

Editor's Corner

By PDG Harold Fletcher

"This 'n' That!"

THE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 24TH

Please remember that the cutoff date for submitting the application for the Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award is only several weeks away. Surely there has to be a member of your club that has demonstrated outstanding service. Maybe your secretary has been in his position for umpteen years and has done an outstanding job. How about the member who is always the first to volunteer to take charge of your fundraisers?

Each of the 17 Districts are given the opportunity to recognize 2 members. Please look and make someone in your club feel appreciated. Awards will be presented at the Spring Party.

Merry Christmas!

DCEMBER'S CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Bethel Park Lions Club – 81 years
December 9, 1942

Elfinwild Lions Club – 74 years
December 14, 1949

Pittsburgh Grandview Lions Club – 75 years
December 8, 1948

Pleasant Hills Lions Club – 75 years
December 18, 1948

We have 3 new members to welcome into the Wonderful World of Lionism!

MEMBER	CLUB	SPONSOR
Ramona Stanley	Bethel Park Lions Club	Lion Sandra Demas
Doug Lutz	Robinson Twp. Lions Club	Lion Don Torrens
Kelly Powers	Robinson Twp. Lions Club	Lion Gregory Leininger

Since July 1, 2023, here's what our District membership looks like from MyLci

July 1st 667 members added 23 Dropped 31 November 30th 659 members

We are ranked 16 out of the 17 Districts with District 14W beneath us.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP *

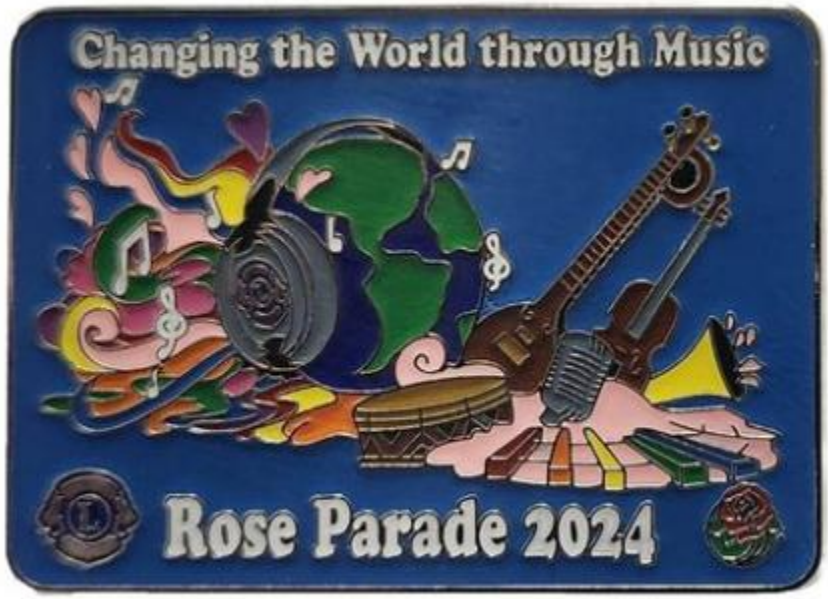
14G	1503
14A	1280
14C	1197
14D	1191
14T	1172
14M	1010
14F	933
14N	916
14P	909
14U	869
14L	842
14J	745
14K	723
14E	704
14H	681
14B	662
714W	562
TOTAL	15,899

***as of 9/30/2023**

The Whitehall Community Lioons Club will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, April 28, 2024 - at 1 pm at the South Hills Country Club.

75th

Introducing the Lions Club International's 2024 entry for the Rose Bowl Parade.



"A day which will live in infamy."

Bethel Paark Lions Learn more about the Dental Mission of Mercy

embers of the Bethel Pak Lions Club attended the annual Dental Mission of Mercy at the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Pictured are Lions Marilyn and Dennis Zabelsky, Pittsburgh Steelers great Rocky Blier, PCC Jay Wells and Lion Leona and King Lion Ward Burgess.

Submitted by PDG Ja Wells, Secretary

WHITE CANE DAY in McKeesport

McKeesport Lions Club held a White Cane Day on November 4th at the Olympia Shop 'n Save and collected $215.00 to send to LCI.

Pictured are (l to r): Ernie Oatneal, Jody Goughnour, Tony Ura, and Shawn Potts, from the early shift.

Submitted by Lion Annette James, Secretary

MD-14 Counsellors

Pennsylvania Counsellors

Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award

The Pennsylvania Counsellors have established an award for presentation to deserving Lions throughout Pennsylvania – ***The Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award.***

Each sub-district may present two (2) *Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Awards* annually. The award is limited to one (1) recipient per club per year and a member is only allowed to receive this award once. A list of past recipients can be obtained by contacting PCC Karen Brady. The Immediate Past District Governor and Vice District Governors are not eligible within the current Lions fiscal year.

Recipients must be of good moral and character who is in good standing with their club which is also in good standing to their respected district, multiple district, and Lions Clubs International. Recipient must also be a Lion for at least one (1) year and a day to be eligible. Presentations of each award should be made by the District Governor at a sub-district function.

Applications for the *Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award* shall be submitted by the seated District Governor to their districts Immediate Past District Governor to endorse the recommendations. Once signed, applications must be received by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Counsellors at least two (2) weeks prior to the February State Council meeting.

PA Counsellors Criteria

Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award

Todays Date: _____

Name of Proposed Lion Recipient: _____

Address of Proposed Recipient: _____

_____

District: 14-_____

Club: _____

Date Joined Organization: _____

Briefly explain why this Lion deserves the *Pennsylvania Counsellors Distinguished Service Award:*

Signatures:

District Governor: _____ Date: _____

Immediate Past District Governor: _____ Date: _____

PA Counsellors President: _____ Date: _____

Application

MON RIVER FLEET
LIONS CLUB
Established in 2011

BENCH DEDICATIONS

Mon River Fleet Lions remember former member, Dee Connor, and honor her dedicated service to our club for over ten years. Pictured above is President James Saunders, Rose Marshall, Helen Stratigos, Janet Kulis, Monica Hancharik, Rev. Arlene Walker, Louise Phillips, Jim Phillips, and Sonnie Cherepko. Bench is located near the Renzie Senior Center in Renzie Park, McKeesport.

Mon River Fleet Lions remember former PDG Alice Jones for her dedication and involvement with Lions Club International for over twenty years. Pictured above are friends, family, members of the Clairton and Mon River Fleet Lions Club, and the mayor of Clairton, Rich Lattanzi. Bench is located on St. Clair Avenue in Clairton in front of the Rite Aid.

Saluting America's Band Directors

The project sponsor

The Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation was created in 2017 to carry on the legacy of the late Mike Sewell, longtime band director in the Pickerington, Ohio school system. This Foundation project, named Saluting America's Band Directors™ (SABD), was conceived as a way to recognize and salute the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors everywhere—public and private schools at all levels, colleges, and universities, the military, and community bands. An all-volunteer advisory team of professionals in management, marketing, music education, fundraising, and information technology was assembled to plan and execute the initial SABD project: to march in the world-famous Rose Parade.

The Band Directors Marching Band™

The concept behind the Saluting America's Band Directors (SABD) project was to create a unique **marching band of band directors** comprising band directors and music educators from across North America. The band was recruited through advertising, social media, word of mouth and endorsements from well-known leaders in the profession. Renowned band director Jon Waters joined this effort to lead the Band Directors Marching Band.

"America's Band Directors: We teach music. We teach life.™"

The extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors are well known to their students, to their families, to parents, and to school teachers and administrators. These dedicated music educators and leaders work long hours to not only teach and conduct music but to teach life itself. Student lives in particular are positively changed by a motivational leader who taught, inspired, and mentored them. For this reason, we chose the theme for our project to be *"America's Band Directors: We teach music. We teach life."*

AMERICA'S BAND DIRECTORS

We teach music.
We teach life.

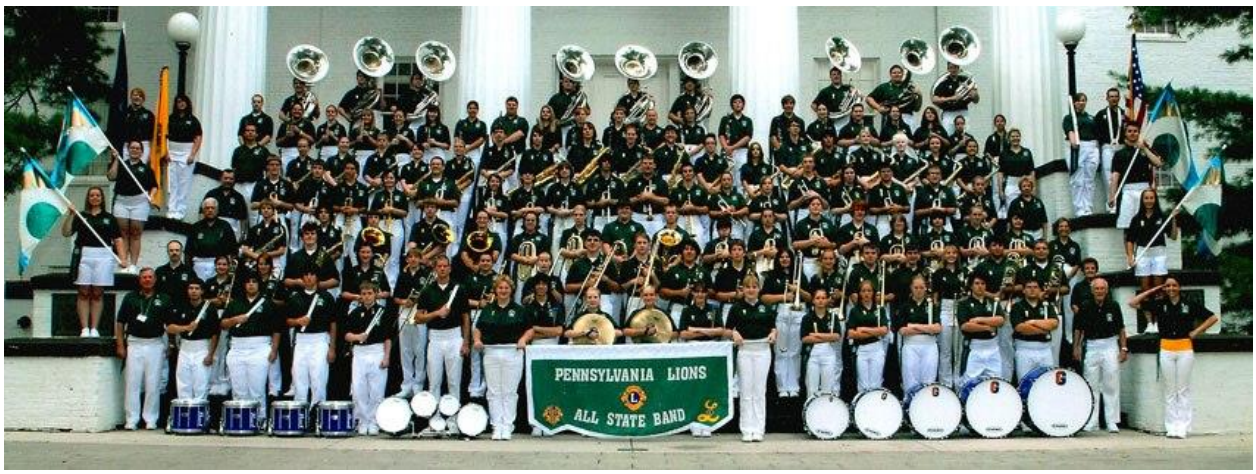
See the following page…

Local Band Director Participates in Once-in-a-lifetime Event

Cyndi Mancini's the 7-12 Band Director in the Montour School District in Coraopolis, PA. She is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington PA where she earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education. In addition to her teaching position, Ms. Mancini is an active freelance trumpet player in the Pittsburgh area and a member of the North Pittsburgh Symphonic Band.

Cyndi received her bachelor's degree in Music Education from Westminster College and a Master of Music in Music Education from Boston University. She started with the Lions All-State Band in 2000 as a member while she was in high school and then joined the staff in college. She is a former member of the Robinson Township Lions Club and serves on the Pennsylvania Lions All-State Band Committee as the Personnel Manager.

Cyndi is one of the 400 band directors from across the United States and one of seven local band directors participating in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade..



West Mifflin Lions Club Turns 70

Sunday, October 29 the West Mifflin Lions celebrated their 70th chartered year of service at The Georgetowne Center in Pleasant Hill. Over a dozen members and their guests celebrated with a fantastic buffet dinner with a special visit from State Representative Nick Pisciottanno, who presented the West Mifflin club with a citation for 70 years of service.

While our club may be small in number, the years of service among members in attendance total 335 years! And that doesn't include fellow friend and Lion Geoff Temple, who joined us for the celebration.

In attendance (as he always is) is Bill Scharritter, who recently celebrated 90 years, with 44 years of them as a Lion. A true example of service.

Submitted By Maria Demko, Secretary/Treasurer

Lions Clubs International

CHANGING THE WORLD

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 14-B – ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Global Leadership Team Report

Greetings All! I hope all were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday. George & I hosted my family for Thanksgiving breakfast and dinner. It was great to see everyone in person.

District 14-B needs your help. It's wonderful that for this Lions year, 2023 - 2024 we have a seated District Governor, First Vice District Governor and a Second Vice District Governor. For our next Lions year, 2024 – 2025 we will need a new Second Vice District Governor. If you have been a Club President, Zone Chair and have a heart for helping the District, you could be our next Second Vice District Governor. It is a truly fun position. You support the District Governor and the First Vice District Governor. There is training at each of the Council Meetings. You do get reimbursed for your travel, lodging & meal expenses. You get to meet alll your fellow Second Vice District Governors across the state at the Council Meetings. Best of all, you are given the ability to visit the Clubs in our District. Each Club has it's own personality and strengths. At these Club visits you can see you who want to choose to be on your Cabinet when you are District Governor. For each step of the way, from Second Vice District Governor, to First Vice District Governor, and then District Governor, you are not alone. You have the support of each of the Past District Governors who are always willing to assist you and answer any of your questions. Then as District Governor, you can do a service project of your choice. There is training also on line that you can watch on the LionsClubs.org website under LEARN.

If you are even considering and thinking about being a District Governor, please contact District Governor Chris Raynak or myself. We would enjoy meeting with you and give you more information.

On the LionsClubs.org website, you can log in for various online training modules. Thank you to DG Chris Raynak, FVDG Mike Crossey, and Mt Lebanon Lions Club President Robyn Vittek for logging into LEARN and watching the various modules since the beginning of this Lions year. If you would like help with watching these trainings, please contact me. We could meet in person or via Zoom.

Submitted by GLT PDG Mary Ann Belles
412-983-8956
Lionmaryannb14b@gmail.com

Here's the CREW that made it all possible…

Standing are Lions Roger Lasch, Connie Petras, Anna Marie McCandless Dorothy Kuharski, Maureen Filotei, Rich Peters, and Joanna Stettmier. Seated are Lions Barb Marchand and Adrian Flink.

The White Oak Lions are Flippin' Pancakes Again

The White Oak Lions back to Flippin' Pancakes Again White Oak Lions decided to bring back their pancake breakfast after 4 long years. It was held November 5, at the St. Angelas Gymnasium. We also had a bake sale, led by Lion Connie Petras. There were so many delicious goodies to choose from. All went well and we look forward to seeing everyone in the spring of 2024.

Lion Anna Marie McCandless and Lion Connie Petras are all set for the bake sale. Just look at the selections for the bake sale (above). PDG Rich Keller explains the fine art of making the perfect pancakes to LionRich Peters and Lion Matt Keller, "They must be light and fluffy and golden brown."

Submitted by Lion Carol Laasch, President

The White Oak Lions placed their fourth bench at the White Oak Borough Building. We are all caught up with our bench placements and are currently working on bench #5! This is all made possible with the Trex Community Recycle Program. The Lions collect 500 pounds of plastic for each bench, so we have collected our 2000 pounds so far!

Pictured are Lions Roger Lasch, Carol Lasch, Maureen Filotei, and Rich Peters.

Submitted by Lion Carol Laasch, President

EATING IN **THE FIFTIES**

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.
Curry was a surname.
A take-away was a mathematical problem.
Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.
Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
All chips were plain.
Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.
None of us had ever heard of yogurt.
Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
Cooking outside was called camping.
Seaweed was not a recognized food.
'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.
Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.
Prunes were medicinal.
Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.
Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.
Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.
The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was *elbows, hats and cell phones.*

HO-HO-HO!
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!