

**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Philip Kafka [REDACTED]; Janet Kafka [REDACTED]; Jeffery Edwards[jeevacation@gmail.com]  
**From:** Terry Kafka  
**Sent:** Tue 9/15/2009 4:18:24 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Going Back To Ol' Brooklyn

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Gerri Kyhill  
**To:** mom; Arty Podnos; [REDACTED]; Gerri Kyhill; Terry Kafka; Mark Houllif; Hank Adler; Linda Rothschild; [REDACTED]; Susan Danzig; Karla Sona  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2009 11:11 AM  
**Subject:** Going Back To Ol' Brooklyn

Enjoy!



Gerri

THIS IS REALLY A GOOD ONE TO ALL THE BROOKLYNITES OF DAYS GONE BY -

**OLD BROOKLYN**

1. The subway, bus and the trolley were only a thin dime to ride.  
And if you are really old, you'll remember a nickel a ride.
2. Schools were the showcase for the whole country.
3. Tuesday night was fireworks night in Coney Island, put on by  
Schaefer Brewing.
4. There was very little pornography.

5. There were the bath houses: Stauches, Bushman Baths, Steeplechase Baths, Washington Baths, Ravenhall, and Brighton Beach Baths.
6. There was respect for teachers and older people in general.
7. There was almost no violence.
8. The theme of the music of the times, even when it became rock and roll, was love...not anger.
9. A great day was going to the beach at Coney Island or Brighton Beach.
10. People made a living, and, rich or poor, people all knew how to have a good time, no matter of status.
11. There was no better hot dog than the original, at Nathan's, in Coney Island; and no better French fries than the Nathan's thick ripple cuts.



12. There were no divorces and few "one parent" families.
13. There were no drugs or drug problems in the lives of most people.

14. The rides and shows of Coney Island were fantastic:  
Steeplechase Park





The horses, the big slide, the barrels, the zoo (maze), the human pool table, the Cyclone Roller Coaster,



**The Tornado Roller Coaster, the Thunderbolt Roller Coaster, the Bobsled, the Virginia Reel, the Wonder Wheel, the Bumper cars, the Tunnel of love, Battaway, the Loop the Loop, the Bubble Bounce, Miniature Golf, The Whip, the many Merry-Go-Rounds, the Penny Arcades, the Parachute Jump, Fabers Sportsland and Fascination, toffee and cotton candy stores, custard stands, Pokerama,**



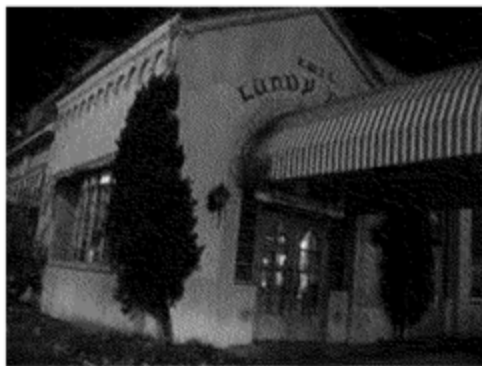
**Skee-ball, prize games, fortune tellers guess games, hammer games, the Harlem revue, the freak shows, the house of wax, the animal nursery, restaurants, rifle ranges, push cart rides and parades.**



15. The fruit man, the tool sharpener, the junk man and the watermelon man, all with the horse and wagon.



16. Sheepshead Bay was Lundy's Restaurant and fishing.

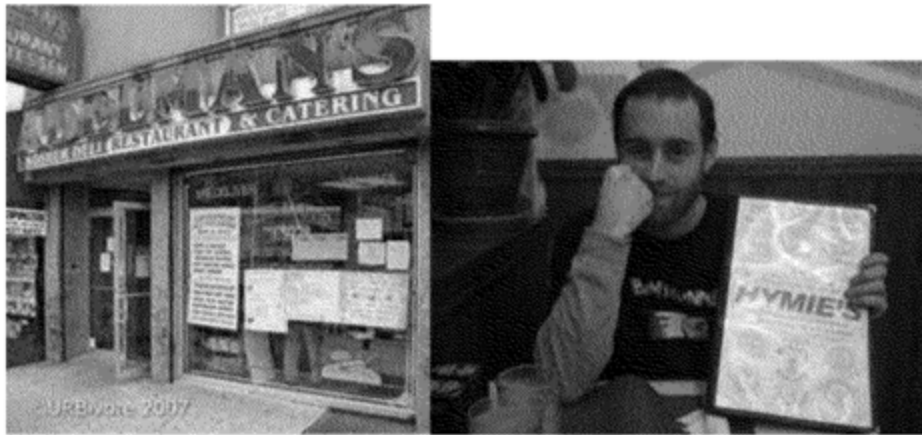


17. Only place for pizza, and only whole pizzas was Joe's Bar and Grill on Ave U. Then, in the mid-50's, a pizza explosion: you could buy it by the slice for a dime at many places. By the late 50's, it was a whole 15 cents a slice!

**A tuna fish sandwich or a BLT were 45 cents. A small Coke was 7 cents, a large Coke was 12 cents. Remember Vanilla Cokes, when they pumped real vanilla syrup into the glass, before adding the Coke?**



- 18. There were many theaters, where every Saturday afternoon you could see 25 cartoons and two feature films: The Highway, The Avalon, The Kingsway, The Mayfair, The Claridge, The Tuxedo, The Oceana, The Oriental, The Avenue U, The Kent, The Paramount, The RKO Tilyou, The RKO Bushwick, The Lowes Gates, The Fox, The Mermaid, The Surf, The Walker, The Albemarle, The Alpine, The Rugby, The Ambassador, The People's Cinema, The Canarsie, The Marlboro, the Avon and The Globe.**
- 19. Everybody knew all the high schools in Brooklyn**
- 20. Big eating and coffee hangouts: Dubrow's on Kings Highway, also on Eastern Parkway/Utica Avenue, Famous on 86th Street, Bickford's on Church Avenue, and Garfield's on Flatbush Avenue .**
- 21. Ebinger's was the great bakery...loved the chocolate butter cream with the almonds on the side, Boston Cream pie, and the Blackout cakes! ...Bierman's was terrific also.**
- 22. Kings Highway stores had their own ornate glitz, as far as style goes..**
- 23. There were many delicatessens in the 50's -- very few today. The best? Adelman's on 13th Avenue and Hymie's on Sutter Avenue. The food was from heaven!**



24. Big night clubs in Brooklyn were the Ben Maksiks' "Town and Country" on Flatbush Avenue, "The Elegante" on Ocean Parkway, and the Club 802 on 64th Street in Bay Ridge.
25. There were no fast food restaurants in the 50's, and a hamburger tasted like a hamburger.
26. There was Murray the K's Rock and Roll concerts at the Brooklyn Fox and the Brooklyn Paramount . You had to go the night before and stand in line, to get good seats.
27. Quick bites at Brennan and Carr, Horn and Hardart Automat, Nedick's, Big Daddy's, Chock Full o' Nuts, Junior's, Grabsteins or Joe's Delicatessen. Junior's, you'll be glad to know, is still in the same place, and the cheesecake is still fabulous.



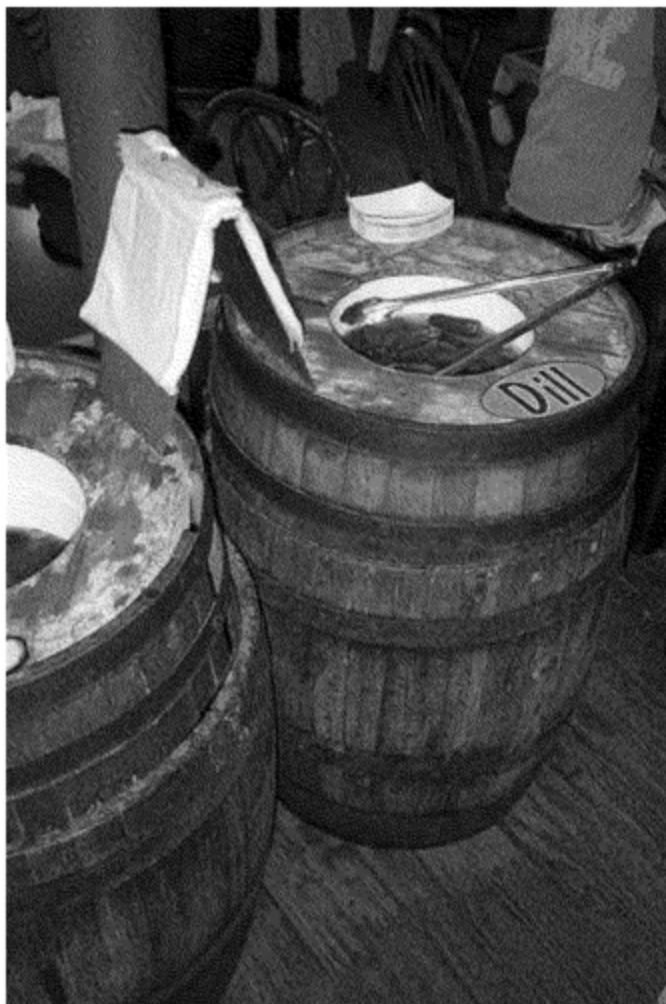


28. Knishes were great at Mrs. Stahl's in Brighton or at Shatzkin's Knishes. Remember the knish guy on the beach with the shopping bags? (Mrs. Stahl's Knishes is now a 'Subway's')

29. People in Brooklyn took pride in owning a Chevy in the 50's; there was nothing better than General Motors then. The cars would run and run and run -- no problems.



30. You bought sour pickles right out of the barrel -- for a nickel -- and they were delicious. By the 60's, they cost a whole quarter.



**Anyone remember Miller's Appetizing, on the corner of 13th Avenue and 50th Street ?**

**31. The Brooklyn Dodgers were part of your family.**





The Duke, the Scoonge, Pee Wee, Jackie, the Preacher, Campy, Junior, Clem, Big Don, Gil. They were always in a lot of our conversations. Remember Ebbet's Field and Happy Felton's Knothole club? For a nickel, you got into Ebbet's Field and saw the Dodgers play. For Brooklynites, it was -- and will always be -- a shrine.

32. You come from Brooklyn, but you don't think you have an accent. To you, Long Island is one word which sounds like "Longuyland."
33. You played a lot of games as kids. Depending on whether you were a boy or a girl, you could play: ring-a-leaveo, Johnny on the Pony, Hide and Seek, three feet off to Germany, red light-green light, chase the white horse, kick the can, Buck, Buck, how many horns are up?, war, hit the penny, pussy-in-the-corner, jump rope, double-dutch, Stories, A-My Name Is, box ball, stick ball, box baseball, catch a fly, dodge ball, stoop ball, you're up, running bases, iron tag, skelly, tops, punch ball, handball, slap ball, whiffle ball, stick ball, poison ball, relay races, softball, baseball, basketball, horse, 5-3-1, around the world, foul shooting, knockout, arm wrestling, Indian-wrestling. And then there were card games like canasta, casino, hearts, pinochle, war and the unhappy game of 52-card pickup.
34. You hung out on people's stoops or in the Courtyard.



- 35. You learned how to dance at some girl's backyard or house
- 36. You roller skated at Park Circle or Empire Blvd. skating rinks, in skates with wooden wheels. You had roller skates at home, with metal wheels, for using on the sidewalks, and you needed a skate key to tighten them around your shoes Those metal wheels on concrete were deafening!
- 37. The big sneaker was Converse. Also Keds and P-F Flyers.
- 38. The guys wore Chino pants with a little buckle on the back, peg pants, and the girls wore long wide dresses. Remember gray wool skirts, with pink felt poodles on them? The poodles had rhinestone eyes.



- 39. In the 50's, rock and roll started big teen styles for the first time.
- 40. Everyone went to a Bar Mitzvah, even if you weren't Jewish.
- 41. Everyone took their date to Plum Beach for the submarine

**racess.**

- 42. There were 3 main nationalities in Brooklyn in the 50's: Italians, Irish and Jewish. Then there was a sprinkling of everyone else. The Scandinavians and Greeks in Bay Ridge, the African Americans in Bedford Stuyvesant and the Polish of Greenpoint.**
- 43. The only way to get to Staten Island was by ferry, from the 67th Street pier in Brooklyn. It was a great ride in the summer time for a dime.**



- 44. In Brooklyn, a fire hydrant is a "Johnny pump"**
- 45. Rides, on a truck, came to your neighborhood to give little kids a ride for a dime. The best one was the "whip," which spun you around a track.**



**You got a little prize when you got off, sometimes a folding**



paper fan, sometimes a straw tube that you inserted two fingers into, that tightened as you tried to pull your fingers out again.

- 46. As a kid, you hit people with water balloons from atop a building, you shot linoleum projectiles from a carpet gun, you shot dried peas from pea shooters, and you shot paperclips at people, with a rubber band.
- 47. You shopped at EJ Korvettes, Robert Hall, Woolworth's, Mays, McCrory's, Packers, A&P, Bohack, A&S. Barney's was Barney's Boys Town back then, and not a luxury store. You bought your shoes at National, Miles, Thom McAn, and A S Beck. When you got married, you bought your dishes at Fortunoff's under the "el".
- 48. NBC's main production studio was on Avenue M. and E.16 St.The Cosby show was made there.
- 49. Everybody lived near a candy store and a grocery store.
- 50. The first mall comes to Brooklyn at Kings Plaza .
- 51. Bagel stores start popping up everywhere in the 60's.
- 52. Went to Jahn's Ice Cream Parlor with a big group and had the "Kitchen Sink." If it was your birthday (you had to bring your birth certificate), you could get a free sundae.



- 53. Everybody knew somebody who was a connected guy.



**54. We used the word "swell**

**55. In the summer, we all waited for the Good Humor, Bungalow Bar, Mister Softee or Freezer Fresh Man, to come into our neighborhood, to buy ice cream. In the early to mid 50's, the Good Humor man pushed a cart, instead of driving a truck**



**Remember the bells? A pop was 15 cents. A large cup was 15 cents, a small cup was a dime. And a sundae -- remember licking the chocolate off the back of the cardboard top? -- was a quarter.**

**(Movie stars pictures were on the bottom of the Dixie cup lids).**

**As a kid growing up in the 1950's, we would spend our money on bubble gum baseball cards, candy and ice cream. A pack of baseball cards (complete with a stick of bubble gum) and full-sized candy bars were 5 cents each, or six for a quarter.**


**In those days, there were lots of interesting coins still in**

circulation. Dimes and quarters we still made of silver. The oldest Roosevelt dimes were not yet 15 years old. It was not uncommon to find Mercury dimes or worn-out Standing Liberty quarters; and Buffalo or Indian Head nickels were common too. Most pennies were wheat-backs; they didn't get the familiar Lincoln Memorial on the reverse until 1959. With luck, it was even possible to find an occasional Indian Head penny in your change. But the most coveted find (for us kids, anyway) was the unusual 1943 steel penny.

- 56. Many of us would sneak cigarettes and hide them when we got home.
- 57. When we talked about "the city", everyone knew we meant Manhattan .
- 58. The Mets in the 60's became our substitute for the Dodgers; but they never did, and never will, make-up for the Dodgers leaving.
- 59. In the 60's, we were ready to drive and hit the night life scene. With the car, came the girls.
- 60. We are all in a select club...because we have roots in BROOKLYN.

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