

## 1910: the Good Old Days?

(SOURCE: "Notes from my Diary" by Dr. John Haggai)

What a difference a century makes!

Here are some statistics for the year 1910:

- The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- Fuel for the Model T Ford was sold in drug stores only.
- Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average U.S. wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.
- Ninety percent of all doctors had **NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!**
  - Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned as "substandard" both in the press AND by the government.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- The five leading causes of death were: (1) pneumonia and influenza, (2) tuberculosis, (3) diarrhea, (4) heart disease, and (5) stroke.
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then, pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion,

- gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health'.
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
  - There were about 230 *reported* murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.
  - Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Today, e-mail enables messages all over the WORLD – in a matter of seconds! Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

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