

Have I gotten so old, only I remember my heroes?

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Back in the early 1980's, when I spoke to younger people or groups and I would mention singing groups such as the "Drifters, Supremes, or even the Beatles", I found some of my audience did not know the names. That really was not a big awakening, because singing groups always change. I can remember my mother mentioning the "Mills Brothers, and I ask "who?".

What really bothers me, is that today (July 8th 1998), I was interviewed by a reporter from our local newspaper, concerning a letter and tribute I had submitted about "Roy Rogers--the King of the Cowboys", and was ask "who". The reporter, a very young kind gentleman, when you are fifty six anyone under thirty is young, had some idea who "Roy Rogers" was. Roy had just been in the news because he had died at the age of eight six, so the reporter was familiar with the name.

However, during the interview, I made mention of other "OLD TIME COWBOY HEROES", such as Gene Autry, Hop-a-long Cassidy, the Lone Ranger, and their sidekicks Gabby Hayes, Pat Butrum, Tonto and finally "The Cisco Kid and Poncho". To all of these, I received a look of confusion and the ever popular "WHO". That started me to wonder, are all the "OLD TIME HEROES GONE", is this the reason that our youth today are having problems. Is this the reason why a fourteen year old in Oregon, kills his classmates, or why kids in Tennessee or West Virginia or where ever, take guns and Kill.

Just sit and think, to quote the opening sentence of the Lone Ranger radio and TV show, "BACK TO THE DAYS OF YESTERYEAR". When out of the hills came the "Good Guys", such as Roy and Trigger, Hoppy and Topper, Gene and Champ, The Lone Ranger and Silver, and their tag-a-long sidekicks. Can you recall any of the "Good Guys", to again quote "BLOW AWAY or WASTE" the bad guys. To my memory none of the Old Time Heroes, ever killed anyone, after all isn't that why their "SIX-SHOOTERS" could shoot 40 or 50 rounds without reloading, they never hit anyone.

