

# 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.

Like I said in my letter to "Dale Evans and family", I am glad that I grew up in a time when our heroes were "ROY not Rambo". In a time when there were silver plated six-guns that shot 50 rounds and could only shoot the gun out of the bad guys hands. We didn't know about Uzi's or assault rifles, we didn't know that "a 3 inch bar of C4" could blow up twelve buildings and two hundred people, and you could kill another 800 with your 900 round automatic pistol or rifle.

It wasn't right to kiss the girl, but you could kiss your horse or dog. For some reason, Roy, Gene, Hoppy, the Lone Ranger, the Cisco Kid and all the others, never saw the need to rape the rescued school marm, and kill off half the town to show they were "Macho". In fact if I remember correctly, being Macho wasn't in style. If I remember correctly, good guys were gentlemen. They were polite, and always said "Sir or Mam". I can't remember any of the Heroes, ever using a racial slur, or trying to belittle anyone.

Where have all the Heroes gone? Are we in such a state, that we can only look up to someone if they carry an assault rifle or automatic pistol. In fact most of todays movie heroes need to carry at least 3 automatic rifles, pistols, and 2 ten inch knives with serrated edges. Todays heroes need to use karate and kick at least 30 people, they don't know how do fist fight the bad guys without kicking them in the groin.

Back when I was growing up, you following the trails of the Good Guys in the White Hats. You respected "your country, your flag, your grandparents, your parents, the president, your elders, and just about anyone who was taller and at least two years older". If you were dumb enough to back talk or sass, you usually got bent over and slapped on your a.. (butt).

Have we become such a sick society, that it is truly wrong to have "Super Heroes who ride horses, or fly with capes and can leap tall buildings in a single bound". Is it wrong to say "Sir and Please and Thank you"? Is it improper to teach a child that if he curses he will get a spanking? Yes, I said spanking. When I grew up, my grandmother had a favorite saying. "God gave children butts, so they could get spanked when they were bad". That doesn't happen today, in fact if you use the butt for the reason my grandmother said, your kid can have you arrested.

