

That Green Thing! (Edited but not original Ho Humm)

At the checkout in store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own shopping bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right of course -- Our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, cold drink bottles and beer bottles to the shop or store. They were then sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So; they really were recycled. We refilled pens with ink instead of buying a new pen and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator and lift in every shop and office building. We walked to the shops and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two streets away.

But she was right.

We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up lots of amps -- wind and solar power *really* did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right.

We didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the county of Yorkshire.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred things by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packed a fragile item to send in the post, we used scrunched up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right.

We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank water from a fountain or a tap when we were thirsty instead of a plastic bottle from goodness knows where! We accepted that a lot of food was seasonal and didn't expect it to be flown thousands of air miles from round the world. We actually cooked food that didn't come out of a packet, tin or plastic wrap and we could even wash our own vegetables and chop our own salad.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus and kids walked or rode their bikes to school instead of turning their parents into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza hut.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Ho Humm!

Provided by Frank Hill