



es, they are a changing'



From the 1950's to the 1990's, life has changed drastically for teenagers. A large part of that transition has been the most outstanding feature of teenage life, clothing. Music, dating, and food were also large parts of teenage life. Totally different modes of being were invented as the decades wore on. The chronology of teen life followed a fairly set pattern. About every ten to twelve years, society would do a complete turn around and become new again.

From the start, fashion was a large part of life. In the 1952 issue of the Hi-Noc-Car, the clothing differences are evident. Cheerleaders, for example have evolved. In the '50s long skirts and sweaters (left) were the uniforms of choice.

In the 1950's the high school girls wore scarfs around their necks and knee length skirts. Guys wore button-down shirts, V-necks, and casual pants. Plaids were popular as were solids.

The music of the time had just undergone a transformation from the big band sound of the '40s to the new medium of expression, rock and roll. It was, however, shunned by most adults. The music sported swinging bass lines and a tight rhythm section. Artists of the day were Chuck Berry and Bill Delay.

In the world of dating, many pastimes awaited couples. In the late 1950's football games and the dances that followed them were the most popular date among high school students. Also, doing homework was another favored activity. Brenda Crocker said, "We always did our homework together." Couples would also often watch programs such as "Bonanza" on TV.

Foods of the time included frics (sold for 10 cents) shakes, and hot dogs, often sold

at sporting events.

Next, the 1960's came into effect, and Rocky Mount changed forever. Transitions from the earlier '50s look happened late in the decade almost overnight. The Hippie movement gained steam, and the tie-dyed shirts and ethnic jewelry took effect. No longer did every one conform to one style. There were no rules.

By the mid-'60s rock and roll had a more commercial appeal. The Beatles sparked a British invasion that saturated American and local culture. Detroit, Michigan came onto the map as the Motown city, starting the R and B craze. The late sixties welcomed artists such as Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin.

Dating in Rocky Mount during the 1960's was trademarked by going to different hang out locations such as the Goody Shop on Fairview Road. Deleres Joyner, class of 1967, said, "You would drive up to the Goody Shop... and you would eat and hang out. From there people would drive to the Dairy Bar."

Food cravings had evolved to include hamburgers, pizza, and moonpies, which were largely popular. Pretzels were also largely popular.

When the 1970's hit, culture took a major turn around.

In the '70s the afro rage occurred. Students who wanted to be in style wore bell bottoms and platform shoes. Converse tennis shoes and vests were also popular. Halter tops, shorts, and "hot pants" were also in style."

Music of the time included disco trends. Arena rock was a factor with bands such as Kiss around.

Dating consisted mostly of going to sporting events and hangouts such as Sunset Pharmacy.

Another stop on the culinary line, candy bars hit big in the '70s. The choicest candy bars were Baby Ruths, O' Henrys, Zagnuts, Squirrel Nuts, Mary Janes, and Almond Joys.

The 1980, the final stop in history before today saw more changes and molded society into a close relative of what it is today.

Clothes consisted of a jean jacket, British Knights, and t-shirt. This was a popular look worn by many. Dress up days favored slim ties and church pants. Polka dot shirts and striped clothing were popular for girls.

Music of the 80's saw the roots of punk, now a major style, developed. Rap gained steam with artists Grand Master Flash and Run DMC.

Dating was a big thing. Teens would often go to Sportsworld and parties. Sports, movies, restaurants, and the teenage center were frequented by the dating teens.

Food crazes included a huge fad for Little Debbie snack Cakes. They were popular especially for their low price.

These eras have combined to form the culture of today. We have been through many eras, but the question remains. What will the next decade be like? Will history repeat itself?

**What's
Next?**