



## 100 Years Ago 1920



- ◆ The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- ◆ Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only; maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- ◆ Only 14% of homes had a bathtub; only 8% had a telephone.
- ◆ The average US wage in 1919 was 22¢/hour; the average US worker made \$200-\$400/y.
- ◆ Accountants earned \$2,000/y; dentists, \$2,500/y; mechanical engineers, \$5,000/y.
- ◆ Physicians had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! They attended so-called medical schools, often condemned by the press and government as "substandard."
- ◆ Sugar cost 4¢/lb; eggs, 14¢/dozen; coffee, 15¢/lb.
- ◆ Most women washed their hair monthly and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- ◆ Canada prohibited poor people from entering their country for any reason.
- ◆ Leading causes of death: #1 pneumonia and influenza, #2 tuberculosis, #3 diarrhea, #4 heart disease, #5 stroke
- ◆ The American flag had 45 stars.
- ◆ The population of Las Vegas was 30.
- ◆ More than 95% of births took place at home.
- ◆ There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.
- ◆ Two of 10 adults could not read or write; 6% of Americans graduated from high school.
- ◆ Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local drug stores. Pharmacists claimed that heroin cleared the complexion, gave buoyancy to the mind, regulated the stomach and bowels, and was a perfect guardian of health!
- ◆ 18% of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- ◆ Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not been invented.

