

# Greenwich High School Wreadin Writin n Wreminiscin

Weekly Wreader

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## Recollections



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I remember Lillian Mertz as Lillian Schindler. She lived on Sherman Ave. across the street from me when we were in Byram School. I don't have clear recollections as to when her mom married Mr. Mertz and she moved. I do remember enjoying having her live across the street and being friends. I am sorry to hear that she has passed away.



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It's always sad to read that another classmate has passed on. I didn't know Lillian Mertz, although the name is familiar. Hopefully, for all those who were robbed of at least making it to the "average age" there will be many more that will make it far beyond the average, with some certainly making it past the century mark.

## Postcards from the Edge



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On the Rich's Restaurant saga, I'm sure it closed either before the war or during the war. My recollection of seeing it in the early to mid 50s was that it had been closed for a number of years and was in a sad state of neglect. I'm a little surprised that others in the Riverside/OG area don't remember it - it was on the Post Road (right around where exit 5 is now) and remained there until it was torn down to build the thruway.

The Ely School for Girls looks somewhat familiar. Perhaps it later became Rosemary Hall, or whatever Girls school it was that is located at the corner of North Street and Maple Ave.

## Webbster n Button



## Manufacturing in Greenwich



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Although Greenwich is mostly known today for having corporate headquarters and financial firms, when we were growing up in Greenwich there were a number of manufacturing firms - all of which have either folded or moved on to other locations. A few that I recall include:



*Dedicated to the Science of Motion*

**CONDÉ NAST**  
P U B L I C A T I O N S

Starting from the Port Chester line, there was Homelite which made chain saws and generators. I think it was originally located in Pemberwick, but later moved to Port Chester. Also in Pemberwick (I think in the old Homelite building) was a company named Aerotech. I think they made gauges for airplanes and other industrial uses. Further into Glenville was the American Felt Company - A sprawling complex of older buildings, making, of course felt for the hat industry among other uses.



Monk's Foot Quality  
Since 1899

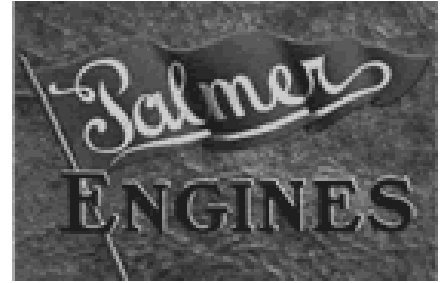


On the Post Road across from Ruwe Pencil was a company called Chaspeck (sorry if I don't get the spelling correct on some of these names). They made advertising displays for stores.

Down on Steamboat Road, about halfway down was a company named Sea Beaver, they build medium-sized pleasure boats, and during the war they built minesweepers (My dad bought some of their old wood working machinery - he still has it!). Another boat builder in the area, located where Field Point Road crosses under the railroad bridge was Skimmer Boats. They were quite popular in the area, but were really quite flimsy built out of plywood, glue and nails - some were real leakers. Just off Railroad Ave before you

went up the hill to Chickahominy proper was Canada Dry. Here they made all the concentrates for Canada Dry products. Good friend and classmate Doug Moroso was one of the main people making the concentrates (he moved when the operations were moved first to Texas, then to St. Louis).

In Cos Cob you had Palmer Marine, which at one time built some boats, but was better know for the marine engines it built, both for pleasure craft and light commercial boats.



## Electrolux

Moving to Old Greenwich you had two of the bigger manufacturing firms in Greenwich, Electrolux for Vacuum cleaners, and Conde Nast for magazine printing. The Conde Nast building was later taken over by Condec Corporation (short for Consolidated Diesel Electric Co). They built a wide range of military vehicles and stationary equipment for the government. I worked there for a short time in the late 60s.



I'm sure I missed one or two others, but as you can see Greenwich wasn't always just the coat and tie crowd. Today, I think the only manufacturing firm left in Greenwich is Arnold Bakery.

## Raytheon

I remember Raytheon, but agree that it was in Stamford. Post Road Iron Works was more a local business, rather than one that sent goods to other areas, but it was unique so warrants a mention. I remember it well - kind of cool and in a different era. I think most of it had a dirt floor. Another local business was a lumber yard and I think sawmill that was located on the Mianus River just below where the Post Road bridge crosses. I think it burned down around 1953, really was big in the headlines the next day. One other business I can recall was a company on River Road in Cos Cob that made micro-switches. Doug Moroso's younger brother Jeff (class 63) worked there for a while. Hopefully others will recall more.

## I Will Let This One Speak for Itself



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I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Reading all the issues really reinforces for me how fortunate we all were to have had the opportunities we did for and excellent education, fun and adventure, and the freedom to be ourselves and grow up to live and prosper in this country we live in. We really grew up in a special time when our community and families was our core. We must never take our freedom for granted. Someone, somewhere, at sometime in history has fought for us to have that freedom. My son is currently with the Seabees in Iraq and he has made this very clear to us here at home. Whether you support the war effort or not; please keep all our troops in your thoughts and prayers and let them know you are there for them and support them. Thank you all for the wonderful memories. They often help to sustain the tough times. Have a Happy New Year, Kolbe Pitkin Smith



## Fender Skirts and Steering Knobs

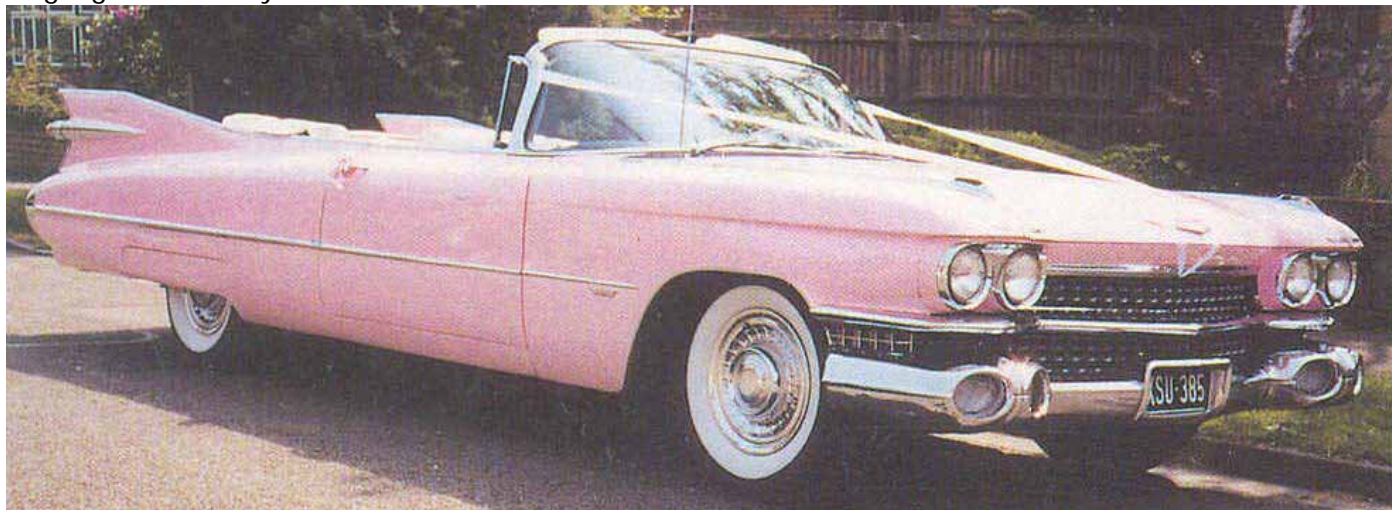


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Editor's Comment: Below is an eMail that was forwarded to me by Ilona, it is so appropriate to our remember series, that I have published it even though it is not an "original". If you Google "fender skirts" or "Admiral TV with Spectra-Vision"... you can find this story on about 4 thousand comedy websites. But that's alright, because it's all good.

I haven't thought about "fender skirts" in years. When I was a kid, I considered it such a funny term. It made me think of a car in a dress.

Thinking about "fender skirts" started me thinking about other words that quietly disappear from our language with hardly a notice.



Like "curb feelers" and "steering knobs." Since I'd been thinking of cars, my mind naturally went that direction first. Any kids will probably have to find some elderly person over 50 to explain some of these terms to you.



Remember "Continental kits?" They were rear bumper extenders and spare tire covers that were supposed to make any car as cool as a Lincoln Continental.



When did we quit calling them "emergency brakes?" At some point "parking brake" became the proper term. But I miss the hint of drama that went with "emergency brake."

I'm sad, too, that almost all the old folks are gone who would call the accelerator the "foot feed."

Didn't you ever wait at the street for your daddy to come home, so you could ride the "running board" up to the house?

Here's a phrase I heard all the time in my youth but never anymore - "store-bought." Of course, just about everything is store-bought these days. But once it was bragging material to have a store-bought dress or a store-bought bag of candy.

"Coast to coast" is a phrase that once held all sorts of excitement and now means almost nothing. Now we take the term "worldwide" for granted. This floors me.

On a smaller scale, "wall-to-wall" was once a magical term in our homes. In the '50s, everyone covered his or her hardwood floors with, wow, wall-to-wall carpeting! Today, everyone replaces their wall-to-wall carpeting with hard wood floors. Go figure.

When's the last time you heard the quaint phrase "in a family way?" It's hard to imagine that the word "pregnant" was once considered a little too graphic, a little too clinical for use in polite company. So we had all that talk about stork visits and "being in a family way" or simply "expecting."

Apparently "brassiere" is a word no longer in usage. I said it the other day and my daughter cracked up. I guess it's just "bra" now. "Unmentionables" probably wouldn't be understood at all.

It's hard to recall that this word was once said in a whisper - "divorce." And no one is called a "divorcee" anymore. Then again they are most certainly not called a "gay divorcee." Come to think of it, "confirmed bachelors" and "career girls" are long gone, too. I always loved going to the "picture show," but I considered "movie" an affectation.

Most of these words go back to the '50s, but here's a pure-'60s word I came across the other day - "rat fink." Ooh, what a nasty put-down! Here's a word I miss - "percolator." That was just a fun word to say. And what was it replaced with? "Coffeemaker" How dull is that. Mr. Coffee, I blame you for this.

I miss those made-up marketing words that were meant to sound so modern and now sound so retro. Words like "Dyna-Flow" and "Electro-Lux." Introducing the 1963 Admiral TV, now with "Spectra-Vision!"

Food for thought - Was there a telethon that wiped out lumbago? Nobody complains of that anymore. Maybe that's what castor oil cured, because I never hear mothers threatening their kids with castor oil anymore.

Some words aren't gone, but are definitely on the endangered list. The one that grieves me most - "supper." Now everybody says "dinner." Save a great word. Invite someone to supper. Discuss fender skirts.

*A Seasoned Greeting*

*The Folks At*

*Wreadin Writing n Wreminiscin Weekly Wreader*

*Wish You and Yours*

*A Very Merry and Happy Holiday*