

## Life of the 1940s Teenager in Peoria

- Peoria was an agriculture community, so much of the time, you dealt with agriculture. On weekends it was typical for everyone to go out and pick cotton.
- After school, you were either in sports, you went home to do chores, or pick cotton.
- If you wanted to go swimming you went out to the canals or out to the flumes.
- You could go fishing out at Lake Pleasant.
- Peoria did have a movie theater in the 1940s where the fire department was located, or today it is a distillery. It cost you 25 cents for a movie and a bag of popcorn and a drink. Here are some of the top movies of the time:
  - 1940 – Pinocchio, Fantasia, Road to Singapore, Philadelphia Story
  - 1941 – Sergeant York, Citizen Kane, Dumbo, A Yank in the R.A.F.
  - 1942 – Bambi, For Me and My Gal, Yankee Doodle Dandy
  - 1943 – Casablanca, For Whom the Bells Toll, To the Shores of Tripoli
  - 1944 – Going My Way, Meet Me in St. Louis, Two Girls and a Sailor
  - 1945 – The Bells of St. Mary’s, The Lost Weekend, Dillinger, Ziegfeld Follies
  - 1946 - Song of the South, Duel in the Sun, The Postman Always Rings Twice
  - 1947 - Road to Rio, Welcome Stranger, Forever Amber, The Hucksters
  - 1948 – The Three Musketeers, Key Largo, Red River, The Snake Pit
  - 1949 – Samson and Delilah, Sands of Iwo Jima, Twelve O’Clock High

- Since the radio was very important the family or the kids could sit around and listen to the news and then listen to their favorite songs from that particular year. Here are some of the top songs of the time:

1940 – “In the Mood” (Glen Miller), “When you Wish Upon a Star” (Cliff Edwards), “I’ll Never Smile Again” (Dorsey and Sinatra)

1941 – “Chattanooga Choo Choo” (Glen Miller), “God Bless the Child” (Billie Holiday), “Green Eyes” (Jimmy Dorsey)

1942 – “White Christmas” (Bing Crosby), “Moonlight Cocktail” (Glenn Miller), “Tangerine” (Jimmy Dorsey)

1943 – “Paper Doll” (The Mills Brothers), “Pistol Packin’ Mama” (Al Dexter and the Troopers), “You’ll Never Know” (Dick Haynes)

1944 - “Swinging on a Star” (Bing Crosby) “Don’t Fence Me In” (Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters), “I’ll Walk Alone” (Dinah Shore)

1945 - “Sentimental Journey,” (Les Brown & Doris Day), “Till the End of Time” (Perry Como)

1946 – “Promise of Love” (Perry Como), “Five Minutes More” (Frank Sinatra), “Let it, Snow, Let it, Snow, Let it Snow” (Vaughn Monroe)

1947 - “Near You” (Francis Craig), “This Land is Your Land” (Woody Guthrie), “That’s My Dance” (Frankie Lane)

1948 - “Buttons and Bows” (Dinah Shore), “Nature Boy” (Nat King Cole), “I’m Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover” (Art Mooney)

1949 - “Riders in the Sky” (Vaughn Monroe), “Mule Train” (Frankie Lane), “You’re Breaking my Heart” (Vic Damone)