



Blasts from the Past

A cure for the coronavirus?

Wear an amulet of Asafetida

When we start reintegrating into society again, I have a suggestion that may help to maintain a little social distance. People should wear asafetida bags.

When I was a young child, to ward off illness, my paternal grandmother MaSallie had me wear a little bag of this plant, a type of giant fennel, around my neck.

I remember it was about the size of a silver dollar, black and sticky, and it smelled awful.

It is an old folk medicine tradition. Alexander the Great brought it from the West in 4 B.C., possibly to use the garlicky smelling plant as a spice.

Granny Clampett also mentioned it several times in an episode of the Beverly Hillbillies.

Our Middle Class Origins

“ The post– WW II construction boom fed into countless industries. As manufacturers converted back to consumer goods after the war, and as the suburbs developed, appliance and automobile sales rose dramatically. Flush with rising wages and wartime savings, homeowners also used newly created installment plans to buy new consumer goods at once instead of saving for years to make major purchases. The mass-distribution of credit cards, first issued in 1950, further increased homeowners’ access to credit. Fueled by credit and no longer stymied by the Depression or wartime restrictions, consumers bought countless washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, and, suddenly, televisions. The percentage of Americans that owned at least one television increased from 12% in 1950 to more than 87% in 1960. This new suburban economy also led to increased demand for automobiles. The percentage of American families owning cars increased from 54% in 1948 to 74% in 1959.” From Lumen American History II: The Rise of the Suburbs



1940's Popular Radio Shows

- The Life of Riley
- The Shadow
- The Great Gildersleeve
- The Guiding Light
- The \$64,000 Question
- The Falcon
- Ford Theater

RADIO HITS THAT BECAME TV HITS IN THE 50's

- Perry Mason Milton Berle Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts
- Hopalong Cassidy Jack Benny Abbott & Costello Dragnet
- Death Valley Days Amos 'n Andy The Lone Ranger

50's Television

Remember Jack Paar? The episode I remember best is when Fidel Castro visited the first late night show, bringing live chickens.

Reruns from Perry Mason, Gunsmoke, Alfred Hitchcock, the Rifleman, I Love Lucy, Maverick and Have Gun, Will Travel are still running on TV today!



I believe all women owe Vidal Sassoon a lot. In the 60's, he was the revolutionary hair stylist who got teasing and electric and chemical perms banished to ancient history. Sassoon grew up in an English orphanage and his estate was worth about 200 million when he died 8 years ago.

