

October was the time for wine making. I can still smell those grapes fermenting in the basement and all the little fruit flies buzzin' around! It was in the late fall that Mom would start making her own laundry detergent with lard and lye. She would fire up huge tub in the backyard and stir that lard all day long for a week. Once the solution hardened, we gals were out there "shaving" the soap on tables with screen tops that were made by Pop.



If I remember correctly, the Bernsteins were the only Jewish family in the area, and they were the first family to have that new invention called television in their home. All the kids in the neighborhood had the honor of going to their home to watch Westerns or cowboy movies (as they were called in those days) at least once

or twice a week. Then the Iaiones got a TV right around the time when Harry Truman became president (I remember a few of Flo's senior classmates coming over to watch the inauguration), and frumpy Queen Elizabeth married Prince Phillip.



Holidays were always with family. The Christmas tree had its place in the front room of the house which was not heated--man, it got cold in there, but who cared after we saw all the presents under the tree. We always played Bingo and what was called 7-1/2 (same as blackjack) in those days. When we played bingo, we played with beans. I remember this because I stuck one up my nose once and had a heck of a time getting it out--ended up blowing it out! New Year's Eve we would go to the Novellos across the street. While everyone else was playing bingo, Mrs. Novello would disappear down to the basement later in the evening and make the most wonderful hush puppies--this was equivalent to dumplings (to be served at midnight).

These are just a few of the fond memories--I could go on and on. We lived in a neighborhood that was pretty close-knit, even though Molly and Manual, who lived next door, didn't speak to us for years! Sure don't remember why.