

Then and Now

By: Kelly Barry and Jocelyn Eckardt

I had the honor of interviewing Jocelyn Eckardt for the “Then and Now” article. It was a pleasure catching up with one of my past teachers, and one that I look up to dearly.

Q. What advice would you give your younger self?

Mrs. Eckardt: I would tell myself to be more confident and to not hold back.

Kelly: After having you as a teacher, I learned from you how to be more confident and now I talk in class all the time. You taught me how to be confident in myself and it is okay to be wrong at times.

Q. What do you think was the greatest technology invention?

Mrs. Eckardt: Certain technology helped in different ways. The washing machine helped women become more important in the job force because it gave them time to do other things. Of course, the telephone was a great invention because it led to everything else.

Kelly: The telephone was a great invention because after the telephone, it was the cellphone and now people can have their phones on them wherever they go.

Q. What were the rules in your house when you were growing up?

Mrs. Eckardt: I lived in a very strict household. Some rules were no cursing and no name calling. One time I called my brother “stupid” and had my mouth washed out with a bar of soap. Other rules were proper table manners or else you had to pay a fine, you had to eat all the food on your plate, do your homework before anything else, no talking back, always write thank you notes to people, go to church every Sunday, chores every Saturday, polish shoes before church, sit still in church, and no dating until 16.

Kelly: Most of these rules apply to my house too. No cursing and no name calling are the main ones that my siblings and I hear often. Homework is often done right after school, unless I have practice or I take a nap. I don’t think I have ever polished my shoes before, not even for church! My mom tells my siblings and I to behave in church while she’s in the nursery, so I kind of have to be the one to tap my siblings sometimes if they zone out.

Q. What was it like when you started to drive?

Mrs. Eckardt: My father didn’t let me drive because I was a girl and he believed that girls didn’t need to drive. He said that if I needed to go anywhere, my mother or him could drive me. I didn’t get my license until I was 18 and did it all on my own. My mother was nervous when I was driving, but I liked the freedom it gave me, especially coming from a strict household.

Kelly: I did my six hours as soon as I turned 16. I was so excited to drive, and I still am. After I got my license and started driving on my own, I think my mom started worrying more. She always worries when

I go somewhere, so I make sure to always text her when I make it to the location and then when I'm on my way back. Driving is so relaxing and I definitely enjoy the freedom it gives me.

Q. Who was famous and what were they famous for?

Mrs. Eckardt: The Space Race was big so John Glenn, Alan Shepard, and the Apollo 13 were huge. Broadcasters were also big, people like David Brinkley were household names. Homes only had one TV, so you usually sat around and watch the TV together. Artists like The Beatles , Elton John, and Elvis were popular. John Travolta, Farrah Faucett, and Sylvester Stallone were famous actors during the time period. Richard Nixon was also a common name and his issues were all over the news.

Kelly: Boybands used to be popular in middle school, but now rappers and rap music has been pretty popular. I like listening to all types of music, except heavy metal.