

The 1980's

The 1980's is a decade that can never be forgotten. Big hair bands and tube socks are always looked back on with a smile. I personally will never forget the eighties because it's the decade I was born and the time that shaped my life. It all had an indirect, as well as a direct and personal effect on me, and my life at the time, and the life I live now. The eighties brought many things that shaped me and made me the way I am today, from the Milwaukee Brewers going to the World Series in 1982, to the Cabbage Patch Kids craze in 1983, to the Challenger explosion in 1986.

In 1982, the Milwaukee Brewers made it to the biggest baseball game of the year. The game was the seventh game of the World Series. They were up against the St. Louis Cardinals. According to my dad, "Everyone who had any interest in sports was either in their houses, or at a bar watching the game," including him (Weber J). To make it to the seventh game of the series, the Brewers beat the California Angels in five games (Baseball). After beating the Angels, the Brewers went on to play the St. Louis Cardinals for the honor of becoming the number one team in baseball. They took it to the seventh game and had a heartbreaking loss. Robin Yount, a young shortstop for the Brewers, was the MVP of the league that year and very well respected by all the Brewer fans (Italia).

The 1982 Brewers that made it to the World Series were lead by my favorite baseball player of all time, Robin Yount. Ever since I can remember, I loved watching him play. My dad said he would let me stay up late to watch the games, or he would tape them for me (Weber J). When I was really young, we went to a few Brewer games. I got to watch Robin Yount play in person; it was a great treat. When I was in fifth grade, I sent him a letter asking him to send me an autographed picture of himself. I asked him if I could have the real thing, not just a copy. A lot of people told me that he wasn't going to send me one, but I knew he would. Sure enough about a month later when my dad picked me up from school, he told me I got something in the mail. I was so excited I couldn't sit still in the car (Weber J). It was an autographed picture of my favorite player, and it was not a copy; it was the real thing.

In addition to the Brewers going to the World Series in 1982, the year 1983 brought one special thing that stands out in my life. "Coleco introduced the Cabbage Patch Kids." Each kid came with adoption papers and was 16 inches tall ("Cabbage"). The thing about these dolls that made everyone want one was that each one was different. They had a bunch of diverse facial features, eye colors, and hair styles ("Cabbage"). The Cabbage Patch Kids craze of 1983 was very similar to the Firby craze of 1998. They were so popular probably because to kids they were so real. You could change their clothes, diapers, and you even got a birth certificate with the doll ("Cabbage"). People would rush to the store to buy them as soon as they came in. Supply was not meeting demand, and people would fight over who got to take them home and adopt them ("Cabbage"). It is amazing to me all of the fuss that was made over those little dolls.

I don't really remember the craze and the attention the dolls got, but I do remember wanting one really bad. I remember going to the mall and asking Santa for one. My mom said that was all I wanted, and every day I would ask her if she thought Santa was going to bring me one. She always said she didn't know because she was having a difficult time getting one (Weber P). My mom told me that she and my dad looked everywhere, and called everywhere, but everyone was all out (Weber P). They never stopped trying, though, because I wanted one so badly, and finally a week before Christmas, my dad found one. My parents both said they would never forget the look on my face when I came down the stairs and saw it

under the tree (Weber J, Weber P). It was and probably still is my favorite Christmas present ever. I still have it, and I always will.

1982 and 1983 are years that I hope to never forget; however, I can't say the same about 1986. January 28, 1986, was the exact date, and in Concord, New Hampshire, people started their day with excitement and anticipation (Timeline). They were excited because Christa McAuliffe, a member of their own town, was on board the spacecraft Challenger that was set to take off that day (Kent 5). The shuttle was ready to lift off, and everyone was watching and counting down. Three, two, one, blast off! After a moment, though, the unthinkable occurred. The spacecraft exploded. When the Challenger exploded, it killed everyone on board including Christa McAuliffe (Kent 7). Americans watched in horror as the spectacle took place on their televisions. It wasn't a bad movie or TV show; it was the real thing, and it was happening right before their very eyes.

When the Challenger exploded in 1986, I was an innocent, happy four-year-old. According to my mom, I was sitting in the living room playing with my toys when it happened. She had the TV on and was watching the Challenger as it got set to take off (Weber P). When the explosion happened, my mom just gasped and couldn't believe what was happening (Weber P). I don't really remember much from that day, but I do remember both of my parents talking to me about the events. They told me that it was a horrible thing and that a lot of people lost their lives. That whole day, that was all that my mom talked about. She was on the phone all day and watched the news too. The Challenger explosion of 1986 didn't affect my life directly, but indirectly, it did. It taught me at a young age that horrible things can happen, and those things can affect even me. Until that day, I never thought anything could ever happen to me or anyone I loved, and that my family and friends would always be with me. I was taught from the explosion that I was completely wrong.

As I look back on my life, I realize that the eighties were a very crucial decade that shaped my life. It brought excitement with the Brewers, and it made me an athletic person. It brought wonder and fun with the Cabbage Patch Kids, and it also brought sadness with Challenger explosion. So many things in one decade to choose from, but these were the three that really made me who I am, and who I will be in the future.

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