
MIKE WENDLAND: Memories of old Detroit deposited on Web site

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If you've been on the Internet for any length of time, you've probably received an e-mail that says something like: "You know you're from Detroit if ..."

- "You ever played in the 'Big Ditch' as I-94 was being built.
- "You took a moonlight cruise to Boblo with Capt. Boblo, or took the bus to Edgewater Amusement Park, or rode the coaster at Jefferson Beach.
- "You thought driving to Southfield was going out to the country.
- "You vividly recall the mineral bath smell from when you drove through Mt. Clemens."

Sound familiar? Chances are those popular "you know ..." sayings came from a Web site called DetroitMemories.com, the work of a 56-year-old woman named Eileen Trombley Glick, a former Detroiter who now lives in Arizona.

Glick doesn't claim credit for all the sayings. They've been collected and sent in by scores of people since she started the site in fall 2003 to pay homage to what she says are "wonderful memories" of Detroit in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

"I left Detroit in 1979," she says. "But just the name Detroit brings back good feelings. We were Motown and cars and All-American wholesome back then. It was a great place to grow up in."

The idea for the site came after she received one of those e-mails, a short list of maybe 20 Detroit factoids. A friend sent it to her and, she says, "the memories came flooding back."

A graphic designer by trade, Glick set up a Web site, where she included the original 20 items and added some memories of her own. Then she sent it out to her friends asking them to send more. That opened the floodgates.

You know you're from Detroit if ...

- "You drank Towne Club, Grilli's, Oh-So or Atlas pop.
- "You remember the Pure and Gulf gas stations, and gas wars for regular at 17 cents a gallon.

- "You remember Primo's Pizza, Carbone's Pizza, Red Barn, Powers, Henry's, Herc's Beef Buffet, Tom's Tavern, Ted's 5x5, the Totem Pole or Richard's drive-in.

- "Your tour of the Stroh's Brewery included a sandwich, a beer and a souvenir glass.

- "You remember this telephone number: TYler 8-7100 ("Here's the magic number; keep it by your side. Belvedere Construction -- they are known both far and wide.").

As the site began being passed around, copied and forwarded, Glick received a note from Stephanie McHenry, who said she was the author of the first list of 20 Detroit facts.

"She started the ball rolling, and I put a credit line up to her," said Glick, who makes no money from the site. Since then, DetroitMemories.com has become a growing repository for the collective memories of hundreds of people who've shared them through e-mails.

Glick says 22,000 people have visited her site so far. But because many just copy the items and then e-mail them, the memories are circulated even more.

Glick still has friends and family in metro Detroit and keeps in touch with them, mostly via e-mail. Divorced and the mother of two grown children who live in California, she loves Arizona but finds Detroit hard to shake. Michigan, too. So she's added another area to her Web site: "You know you're from Michigan if ...

- "You show people where you grew up by pointing to a spot on the back of your left hand.

- "Your idea of a traffic jam is 40 cars waiting to pass an orange barrel.

- "You bake with soda and drink pop.

- "Your Little League game was snowed out.

- "You know when it has rained because of the smell of worms."

Ah ... memories.

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