

# The 5W's Method to Keep Boomer Memories Alive – Notable Events

Pick a moment or two, answer the 5W's and watch the details come back to life.

## Your First Stereo / Hi-Fi System

**Who** helped you choose it—or came over to listen?

**What** was the model, format (vinyl, 8-track, cassette), and first album you played?

**When** did you buy or receive it (age, job milestone, holiday)?

**Where** did you set it up—dorm, basement, living room?

**Why** did it feel like a rite of passage or a leap in sound quality?

## Your First Personal Computer

**Who** convinced you to get it—or taught you to use it?

**What** was the brand/model (Apple II, IBM PC, Commodore 64) and what did you mainly do with it?

**When** did it become a regular part of your life?

**Where** did it sit (home office, work desk, kitchen table)?

**Why** did it change how you worked, learned, or communicated?

## Your First Cell Phone

**Who** showed you theirs or pushed you to get one?

**What** model was it (brick, flip phone) and what did you actually use it for first?

**When** did you realize you couldn't live without it?

**Where** did you make your first call—or get your first “urgent” ring?

**Why** did it feel like stepping into the future (or an annoyance at first)?

## A Holiday Tradition That Defined Your Family

**Who** was always there—and who led the tradition?

**What** did you do every year (meal, movie, service, game, music)?

**When** did it start—and when did it change or pass to the next generation?

**Where** did it happen (house, church, community hall, grandparent's farm)?

**Why** does this tradition still anchor your family's story?

## **Your First “Real” Job**

**Who** hired or mentored you? Who made the biggest impact on your start?

**What** did you do day-to-day—and what surprised you about the work?

**When** did you start, and how did that timing shape your life?

**Where** was it (city, industry, type of workplace)?

**Why** was it the turning point that made you feel like an adult (or not)?

## **A Cause You Volunteered or Marched For**

**Who** organized or inspired you to join? Who stood beside you?

**What** was the cause—and what did you actually do (march, phone bank, fundraiser)?

**When** did it happen, and how long did you stay involved?

**Where** did it take place (city streets, capitol steps, community centers)?

**Why** are you still proud (or reflective) about that stand?

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