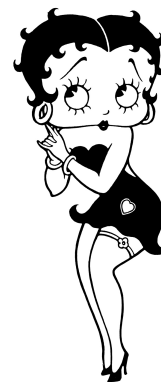


## Discussion Guide for Volume One



# Movie Memories



**Movie Memories** is a **Retirement Community Activity** for seniors who grew up in the 1930s through the 1960s or who raised families during those years. Each DVD volume includes nostalgic TV ads, vintage cars, newsreels, musical numbers, action trailers, TV quiz shows and comedy, Sing Alongs and excerpts from classic films.

However, **Movie Memories** is more an activity for reminiscing than simply watching movies. While seniors enjoy the films of their youth, they will also revisit the cars and trains, homes and schools, cafés and drug stores, hairstyles and fashions, toys and sports of that era -- and memories will flood back. **Movie Memories** is about sharing those memories! Responding to the films and sharing can become a fresh tool for both memory therapy and social interaction.

**Movie Memories** has been tested with excellent results: *"The assisted living group really LOVED it. They were engaged, had a lot of discussion and said that it reminded them of the past. They are looking forward to doing it again and would like to do it monthly. I think the new music programs will be great for Alzheimers Unit, they respond better to music."* (Minnesota Masonic Homes)

***Here is how it works.*** A facilitator shows short films one at a time from a DVD player connected to a television or projection TV system. Four onscreen questions after each segment kick off the topics to remember and discuss. The leader then re-asks those questions and comments from the Discussion Guide about the film just screened and the era it came from.

Discussions may go in any direction and take as long as the participants desire. For instance, **"The Fifth Freedom"** could spark a discussion of favorite Bob Hope and Bing Crosby movies or how they enjoyed Arthur Godfrey and Perry Como on TV. It could also remind viewers of towns they grew up in, family life, first TV sets or how so many smoked during the 1950s. Thus several shorts can easily fill an hour with lively talk.

The purpose of **Movie Memories** is to open doors to the past and share what we recall. We all have memories of growing up and raising a family. What better way to revisit those days than by watching films from our formative years to jog memory and reminiscing with friends?

Please contact Ron Hall at 952-470-2172 or email [fesfilms@aol.com](mailto:fesfilms@aol.com) to discuss programs, pricing or success stories.

Movie Memories info is on the Internet at:  
[www.fesfilms.com/mm.html](http://www.fesfilms.com/mm.html)

**Watch! Recall! Share the Memories!**  
**And it's fun, too!**

## *Movie Memories*

### **Tips & Hints!**

You might try calling a session of Movie Memories **The Memory Hour**.

Small groups of twenty or less are more likely to yield responses from the participants. Many hesitate to speak up if more than ten are present.

If you conduct numerous sessions to small groups in lounges or apartments, a session can be run by a volunteer instead of the head activity director. Some residents might also be adept at the remote control and guiding discussions.

A session can also be run by visiting family members in private rooms or apartments. Children might be interested in the era Grandma grew up in and her recollections of World War-II or the 1950s. Movie Memories is a fun way to spend an hour, promoting discussion while educating.

**Movie Memories** is an activity you control with the remote control. Practice using the pause button and volume control before you lead your first group.

Try pausing over each question at the end of a film segment, reading the question out loud and waiting for responses before going to question #2. If a comment about the film replaces a question, read the comment, run the next question and then pause.

Re-read the section of the Study Guide while each film is running.

Don't hesitate to ad lib in response to audience reaction. "I had no idea you could sing so loud!" You can always ask: "Did you like that?" "What kind of car was that?" "Do you remember dresses like that?" "Did the film bring back memories of life in 1945?"

Simple quizzes that are suggested in the discussion guides can be fun like, "Name dancers in Hollywood musicals." You may get some surprising answers after Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. "What is Liberace's first name?" "Who is your favorite Big Band?"

Let discussions run as long as they are lively. If viewer B wants to match viewer A's comment, memory or story, all the better!

Do not run too long. An hour seems like a good period, but don't cut it short if interaction is happening.

Recalling and sharing memories is the heart of Movie Memories. The films are the stimulus but those participating supply the fire power.

## *Movie Memories* -- Discussion Guide for Volume ONE

Show film clips one at a time to a group. Four questions come on at the end of each segment followed by the word "Memories" over a sunset. Pause the DVD. The group leader then repeats the onscreen questions and reads from this Study Guide to trigger the group into recalling their own pasts and sharing the memories stirred up by the film. Discussion can continue as long as it wants and in any direction. Then it's on to the next film clip!

The 4 onscreen comments or questions are noted under each title.

### **Disc #1:**

(53 min. of film content. Discussions will add time to a session.)

#### **"The Fifth Freedom"**

**Did most Americans smoke Chesterfield cigarettes in 1951?**  
**Was your home town similar to the one in "The Fifth Freedom?"**  
**Did you watch Arthur Godfrey and Perry Como on TV?**  
**Who was your favorite -- Bob Hope or Bing Crosby?**



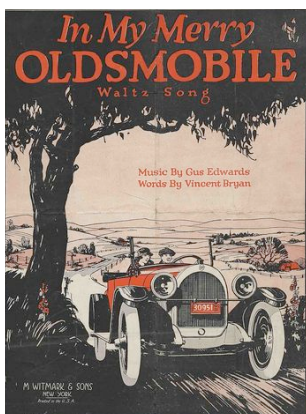
In this 1951 short film, Bob Hope, Arthur Godfrey, Perry Como and Bing Crosby tell us about the American Freedom of Choice. Did you know that was one of our freedoms?

Can you name the other four freedoms as set forth by Franklin D. Roosevelt? (Answer: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want. Freedom from Fear.)

The film suggests that one freedom we have is the choice to smoke Chesterfield cigarettes! Guess what company made the film?

Do you remember your first television set? Did you watch programs as a family? Did you watch Arthur Godfrey and Perry Como on TV?

Who were your favorite movie stars, or favorite TV shows in the 1950s?



#### **"In My Merry Oldsmobile"**

**Did your parents own an Oldsmobile? What was your family car?**  
**Do you recall car rides with the "special" person?**  
**Did you ever sing out loud with the Bouncing Ball in a theater?**  
**Who is your favorite cartoon character?**

This 1931 cartoon was sponsored by Oldsmobile cars. The one in the film looked like it was from 1910, which is way before any of us were born. Do you remember your first car?

Do you recall Sing-Along cartoons in theaters? Did the audience join in the singing?

The idea of singing along as a bouncing ball shows the words onscreen was carried over to television by Mitch Miller in the 1960s. Did you ever "Sing Along With Mitch?"

Do you enjoy singing?

## **“Universal Newsreel”**

**Do you recall seeing Newsreels in movie theaters?**

**Was Rock Hudson your favorite actor? Who was?**

**Did the cow drink orange juice, or were you looking at the bathing suits?**

**Has football changed much?**

This newsreel showed events that happened in 1955.

Before television came along, people got their news from weekly newsreels shown before feature films in theaters. Do you remember getting news in this manner? Do you recall seeing similar short bits about sports, war, beauty contests, robots and floods?

Did you like Eisenhower as a President?

## **“The Little Princess” starring Shirley Temple**

**Shirley Temple was 9-years-old when “The Little princess” came out in 1939.**

**Did you ever want to be a young actress like Shirley Temple?**

**Did you ever own a Shirley Temple Doll?**

**Do you remember any terrific dreams from childhood?**

Do we have any Shirley Temple fans?

Why was Shirley so popular?

Do you have a favorite Shirley Temple movie?



## **“Boogie Woogie Dream”**

**Do you remember Lena Horne?**

**Did you ever dream about becoming a singer?**

**Did you attend night clubs with bands and singers?**

**Who are your favorite bands or singers?**

This musical short was released in 1944. Lena Horne dreams about becoming a night club singer and the numbers she sings are after hours without any audience. The Teddy Wilson Orchestra is part of her dream.

If any of you had professional singing careers, here is your chance to entertain us!

Here’s a big question -- when you were young did you have a big, big dream about your future career or life? Did your dream come true?

## **The Lucy Show: “Lucy and the Monkey”**

**Did you love “I Love Lucy” in the 1950s?**

**This episode of “The Lucy Show” is from 1966.**

**Could anyone but Lucy mix up Mr. Mooney and a monkey?**

**What is your favorite TV situation comedy?**

Lucille Ball is one of America’s most loved TV comedienne. Does everyone agree?

Why was Lucy so funny?

Would you like to watch more Lucy Shows?

## **Disc #2:**

(47 min. of film content.)

### **"The Liberace Show"**

**Clap if you love Liberace.**

**Did you ever see Liberace perform live?**

**Was anyone more charming than Liberace?**

**Did you ever vacation in Hawaii?**



Liberace's TV show was a huge hit in 1952. During the 1950s to 1970s Liberace was the highest-paid entertainer in the world. Why did people love Liberace?

What was the name of Liberace's brother who also played the piano? (Answer: George.)

Here is an impossible question, I think: What was Liberace's first and middle name? (Answer: Wladziu Valentino.)

### **"King of the Cowboys" Movie Trailer**

**Even cowboys fought the Nazis during World War-II.**

**Who were your favorite cowboy heroes?**

**Would you like to see the complete movie?**

**Do you remember Roy, Dale, Trigger and Pat Brady on TV?**

**What was the name of Roy's dog?**

What was the name of Pat Brady's jeep? (Nelly Belle.)

Here is a harder question -- What was the name of Dale Evans' horse? (Buttermilk.)

Did you like movie westerns? Do you have a favorite cowboy star? Would you like to see a complete Roy Rogers film? Did you watch Roy's television series in the 1950s?

### **"Balloon Land"**

**Do you remember this cartoon? It scared lots of kids!**

**No one wants to be a balloon, when the Pincushion Man lurks about.**

**What were your favorite cartoons?**

**Did you ever see cartoon marathons on Saturday?**



This 1935 color cartoon gave lots of kids nightmares who saw it in theaters, plus another generation that watched it on television in the 1950s. I hope it brought back that memory to someone here, although not the nightmare part about being a balloon person stuck with a pin!

Were animated cartoons part of your life growing up?

Did you have any favorite cartoon characters?

Did you enjoy the cartoons, newsreels and comedy shorts that came on before feature films?

Talk about the movie theater you visited the most while growing up.

## **“America On Wheels”**

**Have you ridden in a horse-drawn buggy in Central Park?  
Do you like to see vintage cars in shows or museums?  
What was your favorite car that you owned?  
Did you own two Fords in 1955? Every home needed two!**

This 1955 short looks at the early years of the American automobile. The horse and buggy went out around 1900 and so did the extremely early cars shown. Do you like looking back at American history through movies?

Did you have two cars in your garage in 1955? Were they inexpensive Fords?

## **“Television Toy Ads”**

**Toys, Toys, Toys! Toys for you! Toys for your kids! Toys for all of you!  
What was your favorite toy?  
Did you like toys to build like Mr. Machine, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, Erector Set?  
Who wants to play Mystery Date?**



These TV ads from the 1950s are toys for kids. They might have been toys that you bought your children for Christmas. What kinds of toys did they ask for? Did they ever play space men or similar fantasies using toys of the day?

Mystery Date is a 1965 board game from the Milton Bradley Company that was marketed to girls 6 to 14 years of age. What board games did you like as a child, or that you played with your children or that you still enjoy playing today?



## **“Radar Men From the Moon” Chapter #2**

**Do our astronauts wear suits and ties in space?  
How did you like the “special effects?”  
Did you have space man heroes like Buck Rogers?  
Did you play with space guns and rocket ships?**

We just watched a complete adventure serial chapter from 1952. These were shown in theaters one chapter a week as part of Saturday Matinees.

Do you think there is a city on the Moon? Where do the moon men buy their costumes? Why does the surface of the Moon look like Death Valley? Why does the moon car look like a jeep?

But seriously, did you find the special effects like the flying suit and melting mountain fun, or hopelessly primitive? They actually built a larger than life Rocket Man dummy, strung it along wires out in the country and “flew” the dummy. To melt the mountain they turned a real laser beam on and ... no, that didn't happen. It's a movie secret.

Did you have other space heroes when you were kids? How about Flash Gordon, Buck Rogers, Captain Video, Tom Corbet, Space Patrol and Rocky Jones? There was also a Flash Gordon TV series in 1954.

## Disc #3:

(61 min. of film content.)

### All-Star Bond Rally, Part 1

Does Bob Hope make you laugh?

Do you recall bond drives or scrap drives to support the war?

Who did you enjoy more -- Frank Sinatra or Betty Grable?

Name the four Marx Brothers! Which do you like best?

Hollywood stars donated their time to make War Bond films. The movie theaters would collect bond donations after the film to help the war effort. We just watched the first half and were treated to Bob Hope, Betty Grable, Harry James, Frank Sinatra and Harpo Marx.

Do you remember Fibber McGee and Molly from radio and TV?

### "The Golden State" Sing-Along Cartoon

Is California still the Golden State?

Did you ever visit California when you were young?

Who sings louder - boys or girls?

Do you like cartoons? Do you like singing along?

This cartoon is from 1948. Sing-Alongs were quite popular in theaters. Do you remember going to movie theaters before television came along?



### "Return of the General"

Do you like to see history? Are you a Civil War buff?

The General was part of Walt Disney's "Great Locomotive Chase" movie.

As well as the 1927 Buster Keaton film "The General."

Do you remember either movie?

The General is the name of the famous Civil War train engine. Its true story was filmed by Buster Keaton in 1926 as "The General" and by Walt Disney in 1956 as "The Great Locomotive Chase" with Fess Parker.

The General train still exists and may be seen today at a museum in Kennesaw, Georgia. This film was made in 1962 when The General was restored and exhibited around the USA.

Do you like American history? Do you like seeing movies in historical settings about true events? Do you like to visit history museums?

Does it feel like your own childhood was part of history?



### "The Giant Claw"

What was the worst film you ever saw?

I mean the worst film before "The Giant Claw?"

Did you like monster movies like this? Did you like good ones?

Name some monsters that really scared you.

"The Giant Claw" was a 1957 science-fiction/horror movie with superbly cheesy effects that were so laughable they were quite fun in a drive-in theater. The monster was so bad that the movie poster did not even show his head, because

no one would have come to see the film!

Let's start with the obvious question: Were you ever attacked by a giant 17 million-year-old monster while flying a jet plane?

Did you go to movies like "The Giant Claw" while growing up? Did you see any good monster movies like this, ones that really scared you? How about "The Thing" in 1951?

### **"The Most Dangerous Game"**

Note: This last sequence runs 24 minutes without breaks and comprises the highlights of a feature adventure film.



**Were you ever hunted by a madman. Bad bosses do count!  
Have you dreamed about being chased by something evil?  
What is your favorite adventure film?  
Do you prefer musicals and romance movies?**

This 1932 adventure film stars Joel McCrea, Leslie Banks, Fay Wray and Robert Armstrong. It was filmed on the same jungle setting that was used for the island in the original "King Kong." Fay Wray and Robert Armstrong were both in **King Kong** and made this film at the same time.

Count Zaroff is obsessed with hunting men for sport. Did you ever know anyone as evil or as much of a cheater as the Count? Perhaps a boss or neighbor? Spouse?

Does it seem feasible that a man and woman who are total strangers might be drawn together quickly in moments of great stress? Has a stranger ever helped you out in a time of need, like when you were being chased by a maniac with a bow and arrow?

Adventure films like this one, Robin Hood and Tarzan movies are similar to serials like *Flash Gordon* and *Radar Men from the Moon*. When Bob the hero falls off the cliff with the dog, you almost expect "Continued Next Week" to come on the screen.

Adventure films, horror films, westerns, the Three Stooges, comic books and sports tend to appeal more to boys and men than to women. Do you feel this is true? Does anyone strongly like or dislike adventure films?

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Additional Discussion Guides may be downloaded from [www.fesfilms.com/mm.html](http://www.fesfilms.com/mm.html).

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