

# Movie Memories

## Discussion Guide for Volume Two

Show film clips one at a time to a group. Four questions (as noted below) come onscreen at the end of each segment followed by the word "Memories" over a sunset. Pause the DVD. The group leader then repeats these questions and reads from this Discussion Guide to trigger responses and sharing of memories stirred up by the film.



**Disc #1** (44 minutes of film)

### **The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet:**

**"The Duenna" (1957, 10 min.)**

**Did your spouse ever catch you dancing with a Stranger?  
Have you tried talking to someone who did not speak English?  
Were the Nelson's America's favorite family?  
What are your favorite TV comedy shows from the 1950s?**

**The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet** started on radio in 1944. The TV show ran for 14 seasons from 1952 to 1966. Did you follow the Nelson family through the years?

Did the Nelsons have the same everyday problems that you had?

Were you a fan of Ricky Nelson the singer and teen idol?

**"The Candid Candidate" (1937, 7 min.)**

**Did you ever get a Betty Boop valentine, calendar or cookie jar?  
Professor Grampy uses American ingenuity to solve problems. What could he fix today and how?  
Did you ever invent something fun or practical?**

Betty Boop first appeared in a 1930 cartoon called "Dizzy Dishes." Her sexy image is still popular today. Who loves Betty Boop?



Professor Grampy is an inventor who solves problems by putting on his thinking cap. Which invention do we need the most today: the instant bridge, house spiffer-upper, free cocktails in place of a public fountain, fire putter-outer, robotic traffic cop or multiple handshakes?

Did anyone ever run for public office?

Did you enjoy watching cartoons in movie theaters? Who were your favorite cartoon stars?

**"Universal Newsreel" (1957, 8 min.)**

**Have you ever been to New Orleans for Mardi Gras?  
Did you feel safer in 1957 knowing the USA had all those big missiles?  
Do you remember the polio vaccine of the 1950s?  
Was Princess Grace the ultimate celebrity?**

The very first movies ever made were films of actual events. These were shown on movie screens before 1900! Do you remember watching newsreels in movie theaters?

Did this newsreel remind you of other news events from the 1950s.

**Bing Crosby Trailers -- "Road to Singapore" & "Going My Way" (1939-42, 6 min.)**

**"Road to Singapore" was the first "Road" film. Can you name the other 6?**

**Bing croons. Bob hokes the jokes. Who do you like best?**

**Did you ever travel to the Orient?**

**Did Bing deserve an Oscar for "Going My Way?"**

Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour made 7 "Road" movies from 1940 to 1962 -- Road to Singapore (1940), Road to Zanzibar (1941), Road to Morocco (1942), Road to Utopia (1946), Road to Rio (1947), Road to Bali (1952), Road to Hong Kong (1962).

Do you have any favorite film from this series?

Did you ever see Bob Hope or Bing Crosby perform live?

Is **Going My Way** your favorite Bing Crosby movie?

**"TV Commercials" (1950s, 9 min.)**

**Do you remember the dancing cigarettes? What kind were they?**

**Robots for boys, dolls for girls. Have times changed?**

**Today they might make a girl robot doll that smoked. Would it sell?**

**Did you ever work on an assembly line?**



Did most people smoke in the 1950s? Did you? Did the TV ads affect whether you bought Lucky Strikes or Filter Cool cigarettes?

The story of Robert the Robot is not a normal TV ad, but a longer promotion to introduce the 1954 toy. Did you or your kids own a Robert or other robot toys? Do kids still love robots? Do you remember other Ideal Toys for kids?

Has anyone worked on an assembly line? Did you build robots?

At last we have some toy ads for girls -- Betsy Wetsy, Shirley Temple and Patti Play Pal dolls. Do seeing the ads bring back memories? Patti Play Pal was bigger than the little girl. Did you ever have a doll that scared you?

**"Roads to Romance" -- Coral Gables (1952, 4 min.)**

**Did you take car trips to see America?**

**Before Walt Disney, Florida had a train ride and parrot attraction.**

**"Roads to Romance" was sponsored by Chevrolet.**

**What car did you drive in 1950?**

This color visit to Coral Gables and Biscayne Beach is an appealing travelog for a Florida vacation in 1955. The beaches are a little more crowded today. The train ride through the county playground and the Jungle Parrot wayside attraction have long ago disappeared. Disney World changed all of that!



Did you take car vacations when life was a little less commercialized? Where did you go?

Only at the end of the film do we learn that "Roads to Romance" was made by Chevrolet, whose cars of different makes and colors were featured in every scene. What cars did you once drive?

**Disc #2** (48 minutes of film)

**"Monster Movies" from Universal Pictures** (1930s, 8 min.)  
**Who is spookiest? -- Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff or Lon Chaney Jr?**  
**Which movie scared you the most?**  
**Did you watch horror films on TV in the 1950s with a "Host?"**  
**Fact or Fiction? Men like horror films more than women!**

We just saw scenes of the Universal Pictures monsters Dracula, Frankenstein, The Wolf Man and Abbott and Costello. Who was scariest?

Do you have a favorite horror film from the 1930s?

Which film scared you the most when you first saw it in a theater?

Did you see horror films on TV in the 1950s with a horror host like Count Dracula, Vampira or Zacherlie? Did you allow your kids to watch horror films on television?

Do the old horror films hold up well today?

**Sing-Along Cartoon: "Farm Foolery"** (1949, 9 min.)  
**After elephants and kangaroos, what is your favorite farm animal?**  
**Did you live on or visit a farm when you were young?**  
**Who has ever actually smelled or tasted limburger cheese?**  
**Clap if you enjoyed singing "Shine on Harvest Moon!"**

Do you recall singing along with the bouncing ball in a theater?

Farms and farm animals are still quite fascinating for young children. Do you remember visiting a farm or taking your children to one? What did they like the most?

Simple quiz: Name as many animals as you can that appeared in the cartoon! (Pig, rabbit, dog, squirrel, beaver, porcupine, skunk, hen, elephant, kangaroo, goat, stork, mouse, cow, monkey, turtle, lamb, duck, caterpillar. Just about everything except a cat.)



**Trains: "Mainline USA"** (1950s, 10 min.)

**Do you enjoy train rides?**

**Have you seen much of our great country?**

**In the 1950s, did you help keep America on the move?**

**Quiz: American prosperity is caused by: Hard Work, Optimism, Faith in God, the Railroads?**

America seemed to be much more prosperous in the 1950s. All agriculture and industry relied on the railroads for transportation.

Was the railroad important to your line of work.

Was the train a vital part of the town you lived in?

Did you take train trips for business or recreation? Was the food good in the dining car? Did you ever sleep overnight in a pullman berth?

**"Jack Benny Show"** (1954, 6 min.)

**Does Jack Benny make you laugh?**

**What do you like best about Vaudeville: corny jokes, vintage songs or silly dancing?**

**Which was funnier: Jack Benny Show, Burns and Allen Show, Red Skelton Show?**

**Which stand-up comedians do you like today?**

Bing Crosby, Jack Benny and George Burns all started their careers in vaudeville in the 1920s.



Did anyone ever see a vaudeville show? How about a burlesque show!

Although vaudeville shows died out when sound movies came along, the variety show format of jokes, songs, dances, pretty girls and acrobats lives on in television today. Good or corny entertainment never grows old.

Do you remember TV variety shows? (Here are a few: The Colgate Comedy Hour, Sid Caesar's Your Show of Shows, The Hollywood Palace, plus shows like The Milton Berle Show.)



**"Intermission Time"** (1950s, 4 min.)

**What was your favorite concession stand snack?**

**Did you ever attend movie "Palaces" that seated over 2,000?**

**Is anyone hungry?**

**How could you eat a talking hot dog?**

Did the "Snacktime" ads bring back memories of going to movie theaters? Did you attend neighborhood theaters or large palaces downtown? How big was the lobby? Did they display posters for upcoming films? Did you go to Saturday matinees. What was the admission cost?

How much did snacks cost? What was your favorite movie theater candy? What kind of popcorn did they usually sell?

Do you remember the concession buildings you needed to walk to at Drive-In Theaters?

**Our Gang: "Waldo's Last Stand"** (1940, 11 min.)

**Who was your favorite Little Rascal or Our Gang kid?**

**Did you ever put on a show with neighborhood kids to make money?**

**Did you take dancing or piano lessons when you were a child?**

**Did you ever play with a "gang" of kids?**

220 Our Gang comedy shorts were made between 1922 and 1944. The most famous kids were Spanky McFarland and Alfalfa Switzer, although Spanky was not so cute anymore when he made this one in 1940.

Most kids loved the Our Gang shorts and identified with the kids. Did you?

Quiz time! Name as many of the Our Gang kids as you can. (Here are a few: Spanky, Alfalfa, Darla, Froggy, Porky, Farina, Buckwheat, Chubby Chaney, Jackie Cooper, Mickey Daniels, Joe Cobb, Butch, Mary Kornman, Scotty Beckett, Dickie Moore, Robert Blake.)

**Disc #3** (49 minutes of film)



**"All-Star Bond Rally"** (1945, 9 min.)

**Did Bob Hope explain war bonds well? Do you remember bond drives?**  
**Did Hollywood help win the war with pin-up girls?**  
**Was Bing Crosby the most popular movie star in 1945? Absolutely!**  
**Do you remember the Fibber McGee and Molly radio show?**

This is the second half of the 1945 All-Star Bond Rally. Was Bob Hope a great master of ceremonies? Do you remember all the times he hosted the Oscars? Did you ever see Bob Hope give a live show either to the armed forces or at home?

Did you recognize some of the pin-up girls? Which ones? Name some famous pin-up girls of World War-2 who were not in this film? (Betty Grable, Rita Hayworth.)

Did you or your parents buy War Bonds?

**"The Phantom Creeps"** (1939, 4 min.)

**Did you ever want to conquer the world?**  
**How did that work out?**  
**Did robots used to scare you?**  
**What movies or monsters scare you today?**

Bela Lugosi stars as a mad scientist. Was Bela the best mad scientist the movies ever had?



The robot with the evil scowl kept kids coming back to every Saturday Matinee for 12 weeks. They probably cheered for the robot to kill the hero! Did scenes like the rampaging robot give children nightmares back then?

Did you enjoy serials in theaters? Was there cheering and screaming at those shows?

**"Dinah Shore for Chevy"** (1953, 9 min.)

**What did you like best -- The new Chevy or Dinah Shore?**  
**Clap if you love Dinah!**  
**What color was the Chevrolet that you owned?**  
**Did you see the USA?**

This long promotion for the 1953 Chevrolet was given to TV stations to run like an infomercial today. A few of the boring car details were cut out.

Which did you like best -- the Chevy or Dinah Shore?

Dinah plugged Chevrolets on TV from 1951 to 1961. "See the USA in Your Chevrolet" became her theme song. Clap if you love Dinah!

Did anyone own a Chevy? What color was it?

Tell us about the first car that you owned.





**"Philips Broadcast"** (1938, 7 min.)

**Wooden puppets move one frame at a time = "Puppetoons!"**

**Do you remember George Pal's "The Time Machine?"**

**Do you still enjoy cartoons? Did you like the song "Harbor Lights?"**

**This was made in England to sell Philips Radios!**

Producer George Pal started his career making Puppetoons in the 1930s and 40s. They look like cartoons but are made by moving wooden puppets and filming them one frame at a time.

This promotional film advertises Philips Radios at the very end. It was made in England where George Pal got his start. Pal went on to make fantasies like **Tom Thumb**, **Atlantis** and **The Time Machine**.

Do you remember Puppetoons?

**"Heldorado"** (1946, 20 min.)

**Can you believe Las Vegas was ever that small?**

**Who is your favorite: Gabby Hayes, Dale Evans or Trigger?**

**Who were your favorite cowboys?**

**Did you ever want to be a cowboy or own a horse?**

This 1946 western stars Roy Rogers, his horse Trigger, Dale Evans, Gabby Hayes, the Sons of the Pioneers and Las Vegas when it was a small town!



Did you see series westerns like this in Saturday Matinees or on 1950s TV? Who were your favorite western heroes?

Was Gabby Hayes the best cowboy sidekick in movies?

Does Las Vegas look different today?

Rodeos were popular for many years, and are still held. Did you ever go to one when you were young? Was any cowboy movie star like Gene Autry there?

If Roy Rogers and Gene Autry got into a fist fight, who would win? The answer would probably depend on the script, or which stuntman was the better fighter.

Did you ever take part in a group treasure hunt or scavenger hunt?

If there is time and interest -- Name all the movie cowboys you can!

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

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