Rev's Reflections

The lines were eternal at the grocery store the other day, I so I started scrolling through Facebook to kill time and impatience. The second thing that popped up was a list from a probably non-existent "investment" magazine, called "Boomer Skills Millennials Just Won't Use."

Being of GenX, a generation I've been told repeatedly doesn't *actually* exist, I was curious. (Read: "what fresh hell is this?)

Right off the bat, I could see that much of the "skills" didn't make any sense. Direct communication. Buying a house. Saving money. Using cash.

Really? I'm supposed to believe young people never speak face to face with anyone? Or that they NEVER use cash? Or that none of them want to ever own a home or save money, even if they have the resources? I know none of these to be true.

Many of the "skills" listed were using products that are no longer available, like lead paint. Yes, using lead paint, according to the content creator is a skill. (Notice I didn't use the word "author"). A lot of things were just long dead fads of the past, like making Jell-O ribbon molds and something called Watergate salad, and driving station wagons.

Some of the skills were things that have been rendered obsolete by technology, like sending faxes, remembering phone numbers, and reading (and folding) street maps.

A few lost "skills" really shocked me. Direct communication. Buying a house. Saving money. Using cash.

Really? I know none of these to be universally true, though I have always seem some of every generation opt of these particular practices. Their actions seem to have more to do with commitments, philosophies and opportunities than skill.

At 190-something "using bar soap," made me chuckle as I looked at the ingredients in my cart: enough olive oil, palm oil, coconut oil and lye to make 30 pounds of the stuff for Chalica gifts. Apparently, manufacturers of liquid detergents have convinced young people that bar soap is disgusting by making reference to their fathers' private parts. That, I know, is how marketing works.

I thought for a moment about some things I've stopped doing, like using plastic grocery bags and gendered language. Then about some things I wish we could all stop doing, like going to war and setting the clocks back every fall.

Then the cart ahead of me moved forward, so I could start unloading my cart. Apparently that's a dying skill, too.

In Peace,
Rev Denis