



Rent a Childhood at Resnick's

When you walk into Resnick's, even if you're there for the first time, you feel like you're visiting an old friend. You can sense the history in this old-fashioned, eclectic hardware store. Grandpa Harry Resnick started Resnick's hardware way back in 1912 on Avenue E at 19th Street. In 1918, he bought C.E. Jones Hardware on the corner of 46th Street and Broadway and moved his business there.

Today, three generations of Resnick run the shop. Al is in his 80's now, but he still goes to the store to help out with the paperwork, while his son Larry and his brothers do all the heavy lifting. Al, who graduated from Bayonne High in 1935, remembers working in the store when he was just a kid.

"A lot of the products we used to sell are now obsolete, things like gas mantles for gas lamps, (electricity came to Bayonne around 1910). Before the invention of bleach, we sold

clothes boilers (giant pots). Of course we didn't have wall-to-wall carpets in the old days, so people used to drag their carpets into the yard and beat them clean with carpet beaters in the 50's and 60's."

Larry recalls that in the 50's and 60's, the store carried telephones and sold plenty of crab traps. He says the garden shop came later, in the seventies. "People didn't do so much gardening before the 70's," he says.

Five years ago, Resnicks started a rental business. "Tools and equipment were getting more and more elaborate and expensive, so we decided to rent them instead," Larry says. "People were always asking us if they can rent this or that, so we kept adding things to our rental department."

Today, besides power tools, Resnick's has a complete party rental line, tents, chairs, tables, popcorn machines, elaborate punch fountains for weddings and all kinds of equipment for

parties and carnivals. Larry says they even rent out fun things like the inflatable Moonwalk and the giant Velcro Wall for backyard birthday parties. "Not only do we deliver, but we set it up for you for free," he adds.

Larry says his fondest memory of growing up in Bayonne was his many visits to Uncle Milty's Amusement Park on 1st Street. "My brother and I used to go down there, play games and go on the kiddie rides. My biggest disappointment was when it closed its door in the 60's. We had collected all these coupons from games we played. We were saving them for a really big prize, but they closed the place down before we had a chance to cash in." How ironic it is that today Larry and his brothers stock all kinds of fun equipment for carnivals.

Larry says that his customers are still very loyal. "People still like to go to a place where the sales people know their names and the help knows what they're talking about." —M.Y.

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