

# **“TATTOO CRAZE” = “SELF EXPRESSION”? OK!©**

*by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – September 9, 2026*

*Gosh how things have continued to change as my years of remaining life on this planet continue to diminish far too rapidly for my liking; I do need more time to figure everything out and, once I have passed, who else will be around to write anything about the above subject!? Well, before my time expires, I just want to offer my related thoughts as follows – whatever they may be worth to anybody!?*

To start with, following is a slide that I included in a photo/musical video I prepared for viewing by the attendees at my 60-year (1962-2022) high school reunion:

## **DO YOU REMEMBER TATTOOS!?**



**They actually go back to the days when we had US Navy “iron-men” serving on wooden ships! And, when visiting a foreign port, getting a tattoo (a simple anchor) was a thing to do for some Navy men - perhaps just as a souvenir!? So what is the reason for today’s obsessions amongst the general populace for having multiple tattoos?? Who knows?? NEW DAZE for us old folks for sure!!**

Actually, my first real exposure to tattoos came in 1961 when I and a friend drove from our small town in northwestern Iowa to Des Moines to attend the Iowa State Fair! Amongst all that we saw there, we payed to get into a “freak show” wherein there were examples of such people & animals on display! Included amongst the “exhibits” was “Lydia, the Tattooed Lady”! Talk about repulsive; she was an aged-semi-nude woman with tattoos from head to toe and was one of the premier freaks on display! Back in the day there was also a song called “Oh Lydia, Oh Lydia, Have You Met Lydia – Lydia the Tattooed Lady?”!

Interestingly enough, today there is indeed an international “craze” that encompasses people of all ages getting tattoos! As hard as it is for an aged individual like me to understand the reason for this, it is apparently for “self-expression”! So, as the title of this article states “U-huh”!? So is the quest for this self-expression a competition to see who can out-do others in the design and quantity of tattoos on their bodies? Apparently so! Frankly and perhaps being a bit out spoken, when millions of people throughout the world are getting tattoos in the quest for self-expression, don’t they ultimately just end up being a herd of “sheeple”, hard for on lookers to sort out one from another, and the idea of “self-expression” gets lost in the shuffle!

This “self-expression” (self-defacing) craze goes far beyond tattoos and many find the need to utilize tongue, lip, nose and miscellaneous other body piercings, nose rings, ear rings, etc. to achieve so-called “self-expression”. These folks too are simply “following the herd” and cannot actually be sorted out as individuals because they are seeking the same means of self-expression as many others!

Beyond what is mentioned above, there are many other ways to achieve and exhibit SELF-EXPRESSION that probably are much more meaningful! So, if you personally have a need to project yourself to the world in a positive/different manner, you owe it to yourself to explore all the available possibilities.

