



Editor

Editorial

HAVE TIMES CHANGED?

I sat here at my desk wondering what to write about for the February issue of the Bull Sheet. Several things came to my mind. One of the things is, what were the cost of many items several years ago? One could buy a model T Ford car for approximately three hundred dollars. A spare tire was not included. Usually the dealer would give the customer a spare tire and also a set of tire chains. The chains were very necessary for anyone who expected to travel in the country. One could buy gasoline for ten or eleven cents a gallon. No tax those days. Farm labor was thirty dollars per month including board and room. One could buy a pair of work shoes for less than two and a half dollars. There was a shoe store in Minneapolis called the ninety-eight cent shoe store, none higher. That is the store from which my shoes were purchased. There was a time when one could go to Sears Roebuck and buy a hand lawn mower for less than two dollars and fifty cents.

What about various costs on golf courses? I can only go back to 1916, the year I started to work on one. Wages were considered satisfactory at that time — twenty cents per hour, ten hours per day, six days a week. Board and room was one dollar a day. This included all the food one could eat. One could hire a team of horses and a driver for five dollars a day. Help was plentiful in those years and it was good dependable help.

Very little commercial fertilizer was purchased in the teen years. The fertilizer used came from the horse or cattle barns. How many of you ever used real liquid fertilizer? I imagine very few of you know of the method that is required in the processing of this kind of fertilizer. My experience came at the club I was employed at in Minnesota. A large pit was built. The pit was then filled with manure from the stables. Water was poured over it occasionally. After several days the liquid was pumped from the bottom of the pit and put in large containers and taken out on the golf course greens and applied, usually with a sprinkling can. It was almost impossible to get an even distribution, but we always were able to tell if the fertilizer was any good. This is some contrast in regards to applying fertilizer on greens today. But labor was cheap. The material cost nothing.

Red top grass seed was five cents a pound, Kentucky Blue — eight cents a pound. A tractor and five cutting units cost \$900.00.

Up until 1951 membership dues in the National Superintendents Association was \$10.00 per year. For many years there was one paid employee in the office. He took care of all the office work plus the publishing of the magazine. In our Midwest Superintendents Association, our dues were for many years two dollars a year. Our dinners at the meetings cost us one dollar and a half to two dollars. Liquor was thirty-five cents to forty-five cents a drink. The clubs never charged us more than their cost. This is no longer true. We are asked to pay one dollar for liquor, fifty cents for a bottle of beer, and eight to ten dollars for dinner.

YES, TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

The Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association's Hospitality Room in Boston truly proved to be exactly that of its meaning, friendly and generous entertainment. Where could one find a better place to spend an evening, meeting old time friends and to get acquainted with new ones. The education that is gathered in a place such as this is more valuable than judged by the dollar that it cost. In most cases, goodwill cannot be bought by just dollar alone. A handshake and a smile is very important and there was plenty of this in room 2432.

Space does not permit me to print all the welcome guests that visited this room. We were more than happy to have our superintendent friends from England drop in and spend a few hours with us. I hope they enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed them; also visiting were Dr. James Beard from Michigan State University, Dr. Ralph Ingel, Dr. William Daniel, Purdue University, Dr. Paul Alexander, our G.C.S.A.A. director of education, and many more. The entire conference was excellent, and the attendance set an all time high of 4,360. One of our long time loyal friends was missing, Dr. Fred Grau. Fred, I hope you do not make this a practice.



David Meyer

The February meeting will be held at the Nordic Country Club on Tuesday, February 13th. Lunch will be at noon and the meeting will follow. The Swimming pool, sauna bath and whirlpool bath will be available for everyone's use if they so desire.

David Meyer, host Superintendent, will be expecting you.