

Newsletter 173

Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 2, 2022

Prices

The prices of everyday items has been increasing out of sight lately. The price of eggs has shot up as a result of the law that only eggs from uncaged hens can be sold in Nevada. The price of gas has doubled in the last 1 ½ years. I remember when I was in high school in 1950-54 that gas was 18 cents a gallon. I could get over 5 gallons for a dollar and now it costs over \$5 to get a gallon. What the hell happened?? I realize that prices are relative to wages, but not in all cases.

During the fall quarter at the U. of Utah I was working part time at a Beeline Service station on Parley's Way. A gas price war was in progress. It was started by Slim Olsen stations in Bountiful. The price of gas dropped down in the 15 cent/gallon range. There was an independent station across Parley's Way from the Beeline I worked at. They dropped the price to 14 cents. My boss dropped it to 13 cents and the other station went to 12 cents, so my boss dropped it to 10 cents and told me to tell customers that we were out of gas and to point them across the street. The guy across the street had dropped to 9 cents and my boss laughed and said, "let's see how long he can sell gas at a loss. Well, it didn't take long until the station closed. We went back up to 18 cents and had a lot of business. That is called "smart business strategy".

Back in those days a business' would compete with each other for customers. They would better their product, give better service and trim the price by being more efficient. Now it seems all they do is make their product smaller and raise the price. Check out candy bars, ice cream bars, cookies, soup and coffee. Soup cans keep getting smaller. Just like tuna cans. Potato chop bags are smaller.

The price of things really hit home recently. I was scanning records at the Drugstore and ran across a 1932 Ely Times paper and saw the following ad.

SEWELL'S

No. **United Stores** 51

Pay Day Specials-Tuesday, May 10

MILK SEGO 10 CANS **59^c**

Wheat or Oats
CARNATION
Lge. Pkg. . . **27c**

LARD
PURE REX
4 lb pail . . . **49c**

Strawberries
Per Cup . . . **12c**

PRUNES
FANCY PACK
3 Pounds . . **25c**

MATCHES
6 COUNT
Carton **19c**

FLOUR
High Patent Guaranteed
49 lb bag . **\$1.19**

LARGE EXTRAS
Eggs, 2 doz . . **35c**

Washing Powder
WHITE KING
Pkg. **39c**

4-IN-1
Butter, Lb . . . **22c**

COFFEE Hills Bros., M. J. B., Shillings
Chase and Sanborns LB **35^c**

Tomatoes
5 Cans **49c**

Fancy Cookies
2 Lbs. **39c**

CHEESE
CREAM AMERICAN
Pound **15c**

Deviled Meat
6 Cans **25c**

BACON
SUGAR CURED
Pound **13c**

PURE LARD
SNOW WHITE
4 Lbs. **35c**

Pork Steaks
LEAN AND MEATY
Pound **15c**

Stewings Hens
FANCY FAT
Pound . . . **17½c**

Regarding the price of gas, check out the difference in service. At 18 cents/gallon, we had to check the oil, tire pressure and wash the windows , along with pumping the gas. There were no automatic cutoff nozzles, so you had to handle the nozzle all the time. We fixed flat tires, greased vehicles, changed oil and did minor repairs. And one other thing. The customers stayed in their cars to pay us, which meant taking the money into the office and taking back change. A lot of footwork. That is why they were called "SERVICE STATIONS". Now we pump our own gas, while the station attendant waits for you to pay at the pump or preferably to pay inside and also buy some other stuff. Guess at the higher gas prices we need to do all the work of getting our vehicle filled up.

McGill News

The big Annual Splash will take place this weekend at the McGill pool. The free swimming/hot dogs/hamburgers will bring in a lot of folks from out of town. Might have a good crowd visiting the Drugstore. I am almost done painting. Have a little left in the prescription area to finish the job. Then put all the pictures and other wall stuff back.

It has been very slow. Last weekend I had only 5 visitors. Today 9/1 I had none. Hope the big splash will bring a few folks out.

I was talking with Rudy the other day. He told me that he is going to try to have some movies to show on an outdoor screen on Friday and Saturday nights in September. He has a large 200 inch screen that is designed for outdoor showing. He is looking at various places to do it. Such as the park at the pool, where he had the very successful band concerts in June. The audio effects were very good. I sure hope he can pull it off and we should all support him. He has put a lot into McGill and we need to help him all we can.

Old Photo



Getting ready to put in a new dumper assembly at the mill. This is the big dumper that can dump a whole car of ore in a few moments. KCC's own local steel and iron workers did the huge job. I wonder how they moved that thing around and how did they get the other one out. I will try to find the date this was done.