

Newsletter302

Keith's Corner/McGill News

February 21, 2024

Living On \$1 an Hour Pay

Several readers of last week's Newsletter asked how I could live on \$1 an hour. Well, the answer is that the gubberment hadn't started spending money like crazy yet!! Gubberment printing money and spending it and raising taxes, all combine to raise the cost of everything. During WWII most civilian products were curtailed, such as cars, houses, furniture and even clothes in order to supply our troops and help other nations survive. We all got used to it and made out ok. Many items were rationed, such as gas, tires, meat, coffee etc.. After WWII was over, consumer goods were in high demand. American industry went to work and soon there was plenty of everything that people needed. The large volume of goods helped keep prices down. Prices stayed the same from year to year. Companies improved their product and touted how much better it was than X brand and they kept the price down. It was called competing and we consumers got the best of it. When was the last time we had a gas war?? I remember one in Salt Lake in 1955. A Beeline station next to where I lived, was selling gas as low as 12 cents a gallon. During my junior year, 1952-53, I could spend \$1 at the Standard Station in McGill and get 5.3 gallons of gas for my 1941 Chevy. Then I would drive to East Ely and pick up my girlfriend and go to the movies. A ticket was 10 cents and popcorn was 10 cents and a drink was 10 cents, so it would cost me 60 cents. After the movie we went to Becksteads for some chow. A deluxe hamburger with salad and fries was 35 cents, a drink was 10 cents for a total of 90 cents for the both of us. A 10 cent tip was left, bringing the total to \$1.

These prices may shock some of the younger folks, so here is a menu from the Club 50 during the early 1950s.

EVENING MENU					

1	SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN, in the basket				
	salad, french fries, toast and coffee -	1.95			

T	BONE STEAK, SALAD FR. FRIES COFFEE -	2.25			
	RIB STEAK, " " " " -	1.65			
	SIRLOIN STEAK " " " " -	2.00			
	CLUB STEAK " " " " -	2.00			
	CHICKEN FRIED STEAK " " " " -	1.25			
BREADED PORK CHOPS *****					
	BREADED VEAL OUTLETS with cream gravy -	1.25			
	BREADED PORK CHOPS " " " " -	1.50			
	Country sausage 2 2 " " -	1.25			
	Salad, FR. Fries, Toast and coffee with above				

	Ground Beef Steak French fries coffee	1.25			
	BIG ORDER HAM AND EGGS, " " " " -	1.00			

	FRENCH FRIED JUMBO SHRIMP, * - -	1.25			
	FRIED MARYLAND OYSTERS - - - -	1.50			
	FRIED ABALONE - - - -	1.50			
	FRIED SCALLOPS - - - -	1.25			
	ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAINBO TROUT - - -	1.25			
SERVED WITH ALL FISH ORDERS COCKTAIL SAUCE,					
SALAD, FRENCH FRIED POTATOES AND COFFEE.					

Not only were the prices great, but look at the items offered. Rainbow trout, oysters, jumbo shrimp etc. You could get a large order of ham and eggs with fries and coffee for \$1.

The prices on the steaks are interesting. Sirloin steaks were more than rib steaks.

No wonder the Club 50 was a great place to eat.

I was lucky to have experienced it. My generation has no name that I am aware of, such as the Greatest Generation or the Baby Boomers. We were between these two generations so I guess we could be called the “in betweeners”.

Last year I was chatting with a GenZer at a gas station about prices. I told him it was hard for my generation and others to cope with the high prices. He said that we should have prepared for it. I told him that the price of gas at that point was \$3.80 per gallon, which is more than 20 times the \$18 cents we paid and that if the same holds true, his generation when they are my age will be paying over \$76.00 per gallon. I asked if he was saving for that. He said that gas would never be that high. I told him that I never thought gas would ever go over 20 cents a gallon. In high school, I could get over 5 gallons of gas for \$1.00, now it costs almost \$5.00 to get one gallon. What happened????

I looked up the Bureau of Labor and found that in 1950 there were 62,000 people working for the US Government and in 2024 there were over 3,000,000.

Old Photo



I found this photo in some stuff at the Drugstore. I think it was taken on the Salt flats. Looks like a 1960 scene. Anybody know what year that car is???? That doesn't mean that would be the year of the photo, but would help in identifying the race car.