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Comparing the Lives of Students From 1925 and 2015

It's a known fact that things change over time. Change acts on everyone including children. Ninety years ago the lives of students had similarities and differences compared to the lives of modern students. Students in parts of Woodbridge had different rules than students in 2015 have. Even though the rules may be different, modern students still participate in some activities that children used participate in back then.

Much like today, schools in 1925 held contests between students. Ninety years ago a speaking contest was held between all the schools in the Woodbridge Township. The first page of the May 1st, 1925 Woodbridge Independent newspaper says, "A declamation contest for students of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grades of the Township schools was held in the auditorium of School 11 on Wednesday night." The rules for general competition haven't changed; there's still a winner and a loser. This competition even had a prize which still happens in 2015. The difference is that the first place prize was \$5 cash. It's against the rules in 2015 for schools to give students cash prizes; now they have to give students money prizes in the form of gift cards. The first place prize now is usually way more money, it can range anywhere from \$50 to \$100.

Secondly, another thing that was common back then and is still common now is crime. Crime will always be a part of life no matter what time period you live in, 1925 was no exception. The first page of the January 16th, 1925 Woodbridge Independent newspaper had an article about five boys in Port Reading. The article says, "Five very frightened youngsters and their parents were given a lecture by Recorder Ashley Tuesday night when they were brought before him on a charge of having stolen coal from cars at Port Reading." Although it shouldn't happen, children still steal things in today's society. The only difference is that modern children steal

different things. In 1925, stealing coal may have been a big deal since it was worth a lot. Those boys could have sold the coal to another person or used it to heat their home. If children choose to steal something now it will be something worth more money, like iPhones or expensive clothing. Since coal isn't in such high demand anymore, modern children may not even think about stealing it.

Some activities that students participated in back then are still around today. An example of one of these activities is Boy Scouts. Modern children still go to Boy Scouts and different types of clubs. The first page of the December 11th, 1925 Woodbridge Independent newspaper says, "At tonight's affair scout officials will make awards of merit badges, ranging all the way from tenderfoot badges to one Eagle Scout badge, the highest award a scout can receive." Even after ninety years the highest boy scout badge is still the Eagle Scout badge. Ceremonies are still held for the scouts when they receive an award.

Even school rules changed from 1925 to 2015. The first page of the April 24th, 1925 Woodbridge Independent newspaper has an article titled "Schools To Close One Week Earlier." The article states that Woodbridge Township schools were closed a week earlier than originally intended due to renovations that were needed to be made in some of the schools. The difference is that schools now have a set number of days that students need to attend school according to. These schools had their schedule shortened which isn't allowed today. If there needs to be renovations then there's usually half days. This shows that schools may be more strict now with the number of days that students need to attend school.

Something that has not changed over the years is Christmas. Even after nine decades Christmas is still celebrated. Much like today, people in 1925 considered Christmas a time of giving and a time of joy. An article on the first page of the December 24th, 1925 Woodbridge Independent talks about Christmas in this time period. It states. "Christmas delightfully excites one's imagination and films one's tenderest emotions. Love, peace, good will crowd out hate, suspicion, strife and gloom. So, bring forth the yule log.... Hang the holly and the evergreen....

Hang also the mistletoe. Our wish is that the day may be a completely happy one for all.” People in 2015 still celebrate Christmas with the same idea in mind; love, peace, and good. Even the mistletoe, holly, evergreen, and yule log mentioned in the article is still used today.

Finally, something that remained the same thru time is fashion. Although styles and fads may change, the general idea of fashion has still remained popular. An ad seen on the seventh page of the December 11th, 1925 Woodbridge Independent newspaper is titled, “The Fashion Shop: Large Assortment of Christmas Gifts in Ladies’ and Childrens Dresses, Coats, Sweaters, and Millinery.” Shops still make advertisements for their clothing products in 2015. The difference is the price in the clothing products. The price of a woman's silk dress was \$5.00 and the price of a child's dress was \$1.00. The average price of a dress now can be anywhere from \$10.00 to \$100.00, that’s a huge price difference! It’s pretty much impossible to find a dress for less than \$10.00 now.

Change is inevitable, it acts on everything and everyone no matter what. Obviously things have changed since 1925. Now we pay more for clothing, there’s stricter school rules, and even the things that modern children steal are different. Even though there are differences, some things have remained the same. Christmas is still celebrated the same way, fashion is still popular, children attend clubs, and schools still hold contests between the students. Change is a good part of life since it allows diversity, but keeping old traditions and rules doesn’t hurt anyone.