



A PIECE OF HISTORY . . . Mrs. Wilma Tripp, 5206 Lillian, looks over an 1887 newspaper she found behind an old mirror that she got from her grandparents in Mankato, Minn. The paper is a March 10, 1887, issue of the Minneapolis Tribune. Mrs. Tripp is wishing for the good old days when ladies' woolen skirts sold for 88 cents and men's shirts were selling for 50 cents.

Old Paper Poses Question About Old Days' Goodness

By TOM RISCHE

Ray and Wilma Tripp, 5206 Lillian St., got a peek into the "good old days" recently when they found a March 10, 1887, copy of the Minneapolis Tribune behind an old mirror which used to be the property of his grandparents, who lived in Mankato, Minn.

She still hasn't made up her mind whether the "good old days" were so good or not. She noted with interest some of the following prices:

- Ladies' hand bags, alligator with nickel frame, 29 cents.
- Elegant straw bonnets, \$2.97.
- Grandma Kept Clean
- Laundry soap, two bars for 5 cents.
- Ladies' woolen skirts, 88 cents.
- Ladies' pin-stripe ballgown hose, 35 cents.
- Men's shirts, fine bleached muslin, 50 cents.
- Children's white cambric dresses, 44 cents.
- Linen napkins, 35 cents a dozen.
- Towels, 21 by 43, loom damask, 25 cents.
- Overcoats, silk or satin-lined, \$8.

This all sounded fine to her, but then she noted what the "gentle" lady of the day was wearing. French woven corsets may have been a bargain at 75 cents, but she wasn't sure that she liked to be bound up in one.

Grandma in Muslin?

She also wasn't sure that she would have liked the long, flowing, high-necked creations that milady of that day was wearing, nor the muslin underwear, which was then selling for 75 cents.

When Mrs. Tripp got to the editorial section of the paper, (looking first at the ads, as most women do), she decided that the headlines in today's papers really aren't so much different than those read by her bewhiskered and corseted ancestors.

Top news of the day was the possible Republican candidacy of Sen. John Sherman of Ohio for President against then President Grover Cleveland.

Sherman supporters were boasting that he could carry the "Solid South," while the other leading candidate for the GOP nomination, James G. Blaine, "the man from Maine," could not. Blaine supporters said the south could be carried by him and other Republicans.

"Solid South" Cracks

Today, everybody knows that the South stayed "solid" for the Democrats until the advent of President Dwight Eisenhower, and it is still fairly solid.

Another important news event of the day was the death of the most famous minister of his day, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, whose demise had brought nation-wide mourning.

In reporting the end of another session of Congress, the Tribune correspondent reported, "Well, the second session of the Forty-Ninth Congress expired yesterday at 12 o'clock meridian. And when I say expired, I mean it went out, in gas, as it is said. In all my knowledge of Congressional work (and I have watched it for 20 years) it can safely be said as far as the expectations of the country are concerned, never has there been such widespread disappointment relative to some of the most important measures."

Shades of Harry Truman

This sounds, Mrs. Tripp noted, like some of the things Harry Truman said about the 80th Congress.

Then, Russia was protesting the atrocities which took place in Bulgaria, which had revolted against its Turkish overlords. This is somewhat reminiscent of recent events in Hungary and the Middle East.

England was attacking the United States for supposedly stealing its naval secrets then, which charges have a distinctly modern ring.

North and south Dakota were trying to gain statehood, using arguments which Alaska and Hawaii are using today.

Imbiber Dismembered

Prohibition was a hot issue then and the paper noted that a certain man "had imbibed an undue quantity of intoxicants, and about 7:30 started to walk home on the track. The next that was known of him, he was seen by the engineer sitting on the end of one of the ties. It was too late to stop the train, and the man was struck by the train."

This problem has a familiar ring.

Maybe, Mrs. Tripp noted, the "good old days" aren't as good as we think they were, and maybe events today aren't as bad as we sometimes think they are.

FOREST LANDS

Vancouver — The forest area of British Columbia is estimated at 100 million acres.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT
BY FRANKLIN J. MEINE
Editor, American Peoples Encyclopedia

When a sailor aboard the British aircraft carrier Centaur came down with parrot fever, an inspection was made. The ship carried more than ten times as many parakeets as planes.

Wreckers demolishing a subway-surface platform in Philadelphia found money by the handful, after more than 425 days. The loot falls into a pot and were split among the employees.

RECORDED AT THE UNION BUS STATION
A man in a suit, who received a car as a gift, was checked with police and found it was a BSA FIVE GIFT.

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