

History only at a  
measly \$300 in



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BUSTER**

History 02 Dec. 12-18-03 Living life through the 1900's Since the 1900's technology has been increasing rapidly, from washing machines to automobiles, affecting the citizens of the U. S. dramatically; now receiving increased pay checks and something they never have had before.

Leisure time, not only could people start affording more, but they could also do more instead of work. The problem was finding what to do wash and now in the 21st century even harder. The average American teenage complains of boredom quite often, and yet we've had so much more changing from the 1900's to 1929. Entertainment was starting to become a necessity in life but the way it's changed has differed profoundly from 1900 to 1929. One of the first reasons that leisure time became widely available was due to increase of job work and stability. When people could get jobs and keep them, they usually got paid a fair amount and were able to do more things with family in result. Business owners were starting to care for their workers and wanted people to spend more time with their family and become better acquainted with their sons or daughters.

Stability was also another factor, when Henry Ford started hiring people, he did good things for them such as give them better wages, less work hours and he taught them better values. Mr. Ford gave 5 dollars to workers with "Thrifty Habits", thrifty habits were "Workers who refused to learn English, rejected the company detective's advice, gambled, drank or pursued any malicious practice derogatory to...moral behavior did not get the raise.

In 2 years, three-quarters of Ford's workers made \$5 a day." Mr. Ford's thinking was that by giving workers more money, they could buy more

products of their own such as "cars". Transportation in the older days took much time out of any man's life. Transportation was determined by either walking, which was the primary mode of transportation of the poor or by carriage which was also more of an upper class delight. When the Model T's started getting pumped out by the 1000's, and people were able to afford them then we started getting more movement across the country.

These cars were only at a measly \$300 in 1927 while in 1903 the car had cost about a whopping \$1000. "By 1923, there were more than 2, 120, 898 automobiles on the roads of the U. S." For vacation, instead of riding a smelly horse taking hours upon hours to arrive to the beach, it would take less than half the time provided there was no traffic. Technology has had a tremendous effect on leisure time. Automated objects were starting to become very popular, due to the assembly line, things such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, toasters, and irons were being made in mass quantities. The vacuum cleaner which was invented in 1921 decreased time spending cleaning and increased time with children or leisure time.

In the 1900's the radio was also invented, to be precise 1922 was the first time a station was created and from then on the radio was a good source of information and entertainment not to mention advertising. When people wanted things sold, advertising would surely be a sure fire way to make it sell, bill boards, signs, commercials, this increased consumer purchasing thus stimulating the economy. By the 1920's instead of sitting by the fire and reading a good book like the people of the 1900's did, people went shopping. Chain stores such as J. C.

Penny, Sears, and Roebuck had about 29, 000 stores but by 1929 there were 160, 000. With automobiles around, people could shop anywhere because of the convenience of their Model T and could carry more. The chain stores had become quite popular due to the fact that, since the stores had mass amounts of items, they would be cheaper, have more in stock and most likely in a more convenient place for their consumers. Now in our society we tend to have women shop more often but back then, the rights of women were restricted.

World War I had made a profound effect on women's rights, before it, women were arrested for smoking or cursing, and appearing at beaches without stockings or indecent exposure. But this was before, and now it's strange to see a girl very covered up, the Journal of Commerce estimated that " In the previous 15 years the average woman had stripped away 12. 25 yards of material from her outfit, leaving only a scant 7 yards" As you can see, women were changing and so was what they could and couldn't do. Women now in their leisure time had more independence, they could have a smoke if they wished too or go and wear make up. Going to the beach was a way to show how women were becoming more independent, they wore brave and new swimsuits that showed off their body and loved it.

The next era was smoothly, flowing in, the jazz age that is. Starting from the 1920's America's new hobby was watching movies. It was estimated that Americans went once every week, and that really adds up.

The movie theaters brought so much into their lives, drama, action, comedy, and people love using their leisure time, as well as their wealth to go to these

theaters. People admired these stars in the movies beyond belief, just like now. If a star got a new hair cut, so did 20, 000 other ladies across the nation. We see how stars influence our lives but how about heroes.

Sports were just starting to become a spectator sport now that there are no wars to worry about, the economy is becoming better and we've got so much leisure time. People were starting to play more sports than before, just for the wealthy like golf. The government was adding more recreation centers like baseball diamonds and swimming pools. People were also starting to appreciate sports more, especially the heroes of sports like Babe Ruth. " In St. Louis, Missouri, 40, 000 fans witnessed the fourth game of baseball's World Series. Millions more enthusiastic fans were listening to popular announcer Graham McNamee as Babe Ruth came to bat" People were starting to enjoy watching sports, imagining themselves as those remarkable heroes.

In almost three decades, the U. S. has changed in many areas but overall how leisure time was spent may be the most. People in the 1900's had no leisure time, all they had to do was work to live, now they were starting to live to live! People shouldn't waste their lives in a factory, becoming machines and only doing what you're told. People need free time of their own to do what they want.

The new inventions sped up work time, and so did Mr. Ford, with these new ideas people can get through work and do things they wanted like watch sports or movies. Without leisure time life would be pointless, what was needed was a good relation to calm our mind and our bodies.

Works Cited: American Odyssey Gary B. Nash Published 1999, The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc