

Woodbridge Essay

If you look at history over the past ^{ninety}90 years, you'll notice something very interesting.

Our world has constantly been progressing and believe it or not, it still is. Think about how much has changed over the years. The way we travel, communicate, and educate people has all changed. Kids today look at their history books and are amazed at the difference compared to the present. Look at the events in the past and think about the impact they made on the people living at the time. We had devastating wars and storms that caused tons of damage to places all over the world including our home town of Iselin. There are also positive things that have been introduced to us around ninety years ago. Winnie-The-Pooh made its debut, several presidents took office, stars were born, and major roadways were built. Our way of life has altered more than you could ever imagine.

Some activities have changed but one that hasn't is baseball. In 1926, there were many baseball teams who could play some good ball. One example of this sport being played at the time is a game fought by the Woodbridge and Metuchen high school baseball teams. It was May 7th, 1926 and the two local teams battled it out on the diamond. According to the Woodbridge Independent newspaper from May 11th, 1926, the final score was 11-1 in favor of Woodbridge despite the fact that it was a game well fought and that it was interesting from start to finish. Woodbridge's pitcher, Toth, allowed only five hits which were distributed among the innings. The win put Woodbridge in a tie for third place with Perth Amboy in the league. This is only one example of baseball during the time. Often kids would get their mitts and a wooden bat and meet up with their friends at a local field. However, baseball was a bit different

at the time since they didn't use aluminum or composite bats and the gloves weren't as good. It was a much loved sport back then and still is.

Another hobby children would take part in is riding their bicycles around town. The Woodbridge Leader newspaper from May 21st, 1926 had an ad to get more subscribers by giving away bikes. All ~~the~~^a child had to do was buy a book of twenty subscriptions, sell them to people in the neighborhood, and turn the money in with the receipt stubs. Now if no one rode their bike around town, the newspaper wouldn't put this in. Today, you have businesses having giveaways such as a skateboard or "hover board." Therefore, in order for the newspaper to be giving away bikes, a bike had to be popular, and given the fact that it was very uncommon for a family to have a car or some kind of automobile, it most likely was.

Along with activities having an impact on their lives, there were also many events that have done the same. On November 10th, 1926, nine school boys were painfully hit by bullets in the school yard before school started. The Woodbridge Independent newspaper from November 12th, 1926 suggested that the bullets came from a gun in the hands of a man hunting in a field nearby. Now the reason I say that the bullets "hit" the boys is because none of the pellets punctured the skin. The man's name was Carl Lightner. Fortunately, none of the boys were seriously injured. The mishap served as a warning to all hunters not to fire guns in a populated area. In addition, it frightened the public like any shooting would. Parents don't want their child in danger and they felt that they were.

One other event that impacted lives in Iselin was a meeting to discuss the addition of a sewer system and means of a garbage removal. The meeting took place on April 29th, 1926

according to The Woodbridge Leader newspaper from April 23rd, 1926. Tons of Iselin citizens attended the meeting. It was held because land in Iselin was losing value and serious illnesses were spreading across the town during warm weather. The cause was the unsanitary conditions. The current sewage system was very small and once in a while, the sewage would spill onto people's yards and onto the streets creating a disgusting odor. People also dumped their garbage on the streets and in empty lots. Then the newspaper committee released another issue on April 30th, 1926 telling the people that a sewer system would soon be created and that garbage would be collected by the town. If this sewer system and garbage disposal plan was never suggested, think of what Iselin's population would be today. This definitely had an impact on people in the town because most of them wouldn't have raised their children here if this didn't happen.

So now that I briefly introduced Iselin ninety years ago, you should know a little about how it has changed and how it has stayed the same. One difference that I pointed out was the means of traveling. People didn't just get in their car and drive; they rode their bikes around town instead. Also, hunters were still part of the population and as you read, some people were victims of careless hunting. Another difference would be the garbage disposal and sewage systems I had just talked about. Think of the smell of a dumpster and then think of that smell being around the whole town. Who would want to live there? Some of the similarities include their hobbies such as baseball and cycling, even though cycling isn't as popular. In fact, I think that baseball has grown even more since 1926.

I think it would be very interesting to hop into a time machine and transport myself back ninety years. Of course that might not be possible for a while but who knows, the world has changed so much in just ninety years that I can imagine myself time-traveling in ~~my~~^{the} near future.