

## THROUGH THE YEARS!

The Lopatcong Township 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee thought it would be fun to do some comparisons of how the cost of certain items has changed over the years. For future generations who read this, please keep in mind that it was very difficult obtaining information from 1863 in a timely fashion. Keeping this in mind, we ask that you forgive the approximate numbers which are provided in the grid below. We used the Civil War pages 131 and 132 of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Book written by Lopatcong Township resident, Jesse DeGroff, as a reference for most of the information from 1863. A variety of internet sources were used in the collection of many of the other numbers, none of which have been quoted or referenced. These are just ballpark numbers for laughs, or perhaps, for groans! Since computers did not exist in 1863, neither did the internet. The first computers were just being introduced for industrial/corporate use in 1963, but there was still no internet! By our current year of 2013, any question a person had could be answered instantaneously over the internet, but again, information from 1863 was very difficult to find.

Today as we reflect and write these words to you, we wonder what Lopatcong Township's bicentennial year of 2063 will bring. Will cars fly; will people be able to teleport from place to place; will we inhabit the moon; will computers be extinct and every person have a computer/ cell phone embedded into their hand or brain; will the new Phillipsburg High School ever be built?? The future is unforeseen but, to the Lopatcong Township 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee of the year 2063, we wish you well all the same!

Product	Cost-1863	Cost-2013
Dozen Eggs	25 cents	\$1.89
1 lb. Cheese	18 cents	\$6.99(cheddar)
1 lb. Sugar	15 cents	\$1.45
Potatoes/Bushel	\$2.25	\$15.00
Shot of Liquor	10 cents	\$2.00 (cheap)
Hotel	\$3/day	\$80/night
Shave for Men	10 cents	\$5.00
Haircut for Men	20 cents	\$10.00
Average Wage	\$1.25/day	\$7.25/min.hour
AvYearlyIncome	\$300.00	\$39,440.00

Product	Cost-1963	Cost-2013
Gallon of Milk	\$1.04	\$3.46
Loaf of Bread	\$0.21	\$1.41
New Auto	\$2,300.00	\$26,600.00
Gallon of Gas	\$0.25/0.30	\$3.39
New Home	\$19,300.00	\$178,600.00
Stamp	\$0.04/0.05	\$0.45/0.46
Average Wage	\$1.25/min. hour	\$7.25/min. hour
AvYearlyIncome	\$5,623.00	\$39,440.00

P.S. You may stop laughing at us now. This will be you in 50 years!

Fondly,

The 2013 Planning Committee of the Lopatcong Township 150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration Weekend held from September 6 – 8, 2013.