

Today is my grandfather's birthday. Born 12/21/1885 in Shakopee MN.

There was no income tax when he was born. No social security or Medicare either. He was almost age 50 when he first started to pay social security tax at 2% on up to \$3000 of wages. When he received his first social security check, he said to my father "someone is going to have to pay for this, and I think it is going to be you." As it turns out it will be my daughter's generation.

He played baseball for the town team in Weyburn, Saskatchewan Canada where he earned a significant portion of his income, while also selling insurance. In the 1920's he moved back to Shakopee and played for Rock Spring Bottling. Radio was just starting up commercially and TV was decades away from delivering entertainment, so people needed something to take themselves away from their daily lives.

He earned \$25 a game as a catcher because he had a strong throwing arm and could prevent base runners from stealing second base. He would be amazed to know people spend more than that on beer at Target Field.

I do not know if he was considered to be an amateur then. Now we can call it Name, Likeness, & Image, or NLI money, and still keep an amateur status. Why did it take this long to find that loophole? Jim Thorpe could have used that court ruling, but I digress. My grandfather attended school through eighth grade, but with NLI money being available maybe 8 years of college would have been possible. 😊

The joke around our house as a kid when comparing what we earned to the amount my parents earned at the same age was "you get paid what your worth." \$25 does not go very far grampa, better go sell some insurance.

Happy birthday Grampa! You were a good man.