

School Milk



A short 'milk' story from a 1945 entry into the Log Book of the Infant's School.

Oct 22nd	Milk delivered in churns "Milk delivered in churns and placed in medical room, No labour provided for distribution to classes, This took Head teacher two hours to carry 8qt cans to classes, empty them into cups and return. It also caused strain on arm and foot. 86 qts distributed in this dept. The Milk supplier was informed this method unworkable".
Oct 23	Milk still in churns! "Head master and two women helpers assisted the Infant HT with distribution but still unsatisfactory and much dust in milk".
Oct 30	Milk sensibly delivered at last "Milk now delivered in quart bottles"

Milk in Schools – A Brief History

1930 Lanarkshire Milk Trial - vast social research project involving thousands of children being weighed and measured whilst drinking school milk - provided proof that supplemental milk ensured better growth and development - THIS IS STILL TRUE

1933 By this time one million school children were provided with school milk

1934 Milk Marketing Board began - The Milk Act - all elementary children entitled to a third of a pint a day at the cost of 1d - poor children free at the discretion of the school board

1946 Education Act of 1944 came into effect - All schools had free milk - both primary and secondary - 92% of children drank free milk. The milk scheme had no provision for refrigerated storage. This remains the same in 2000 - it is not a legal requirement for schools to store milk under refrigeration.

1968 The first cutbacks - Harold Wilson's Labour govt withdrew free milk from secondary schools - this was not replaced by a paid scheme

1971 Margaret Thatcher – the Milk Snatcher - Sec of State for Education withdrew free milk for the over 7's except for under 12's with a medical certificate. Local authorities were empowered to sell secondary and primary milk.