

# Gas at 6¢ a gallon

**By Gordon B. Seavey**  
Staff Correspondent

A senior citizen remarked that it cost him \$40 to fill the ample tank of his Cadillac with high-test gasoline this past week. Today, the price of a barrel of crude oil is \$40.

All things must be relative, he said, but he was clearly abashed with prices of today compared those of "his time."

He recalled that when automobiles first came to Westford in the 1910s, few public gasoline supplies were available. Wealthy families (and they were the ones who first could afford an automobile) placed gasoline storage tanks in or near their stables.

Separate garages were built, away a short distance from the house for "safety reasons." The owners weren't always certain if the new "contraption" might explode.

George Cadman, who used gasoline to run "putt, putt . . . putt" sta-

tionary gas engines on his Old Homestead Farm on Depot Street to operate some of his farm machinery, as well as his Winton Six, soon was assessed \$50 on his gasoline pump and tank.

His farm is now the location of Abbot Middle School.

Local grocery stores soon got in the selling business and hand-cranked gasoline from pumps in front of their buildings. The price was 6¢ per gallon and the brand was Socony. The tank on a model T ford held but five gallons, so the fill-up cost was 30¢.

This brings to mind the old story of the young man, short of cash, taking his girl out for a spin. While at the gas pump at Wright & Fletcher's general store at the center he signaled the attendant with two fingers and a wink, and loudly demanded "Filler up full, Dick."

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