

PARKING..WHERE?



By Joselyn Avila

Traffic in the City

Everyone says the MTA in the city is overly crowded and has too many delays, but this can be the best form of transportation than driving a car to the city.

The amount of cars in the city specially during rush hour is insane. The trains appear to go faster to your destination than cars. Now since you can imagine the amount of cars in the city, also think about where do half of these cars stay? Is there enough parking for everyone?



Parking Meters

To me parking meters, is one thing that I have to deal with whenever I drive around.

As I dug in deeper, parking meters get traced back in history to the 1930's.

- The idea of meters came from a man named Carl C. Magee, who recognized the issue of insufficient parking spaces in urban areas and noticed it was a problem.
- In 1935, the parking meter was first put to work by his company called Dual Parking meter.
- Many people were against it because it forced drivers to pay.

Why did I find this artifact interesting?

I believe learning from our past to find out how it contributes to what we have today is important.

I found it interesting to know that people who owned businesses were always forced to deal with random cars parked in front of their stores all day. This affected the shop owners because their clientele had no space to stop in front of their shops. However, when they did stop, this is how streets got overcrowded with cars. Thus, causing a wave of meters to be set up in almost all of the U.S.

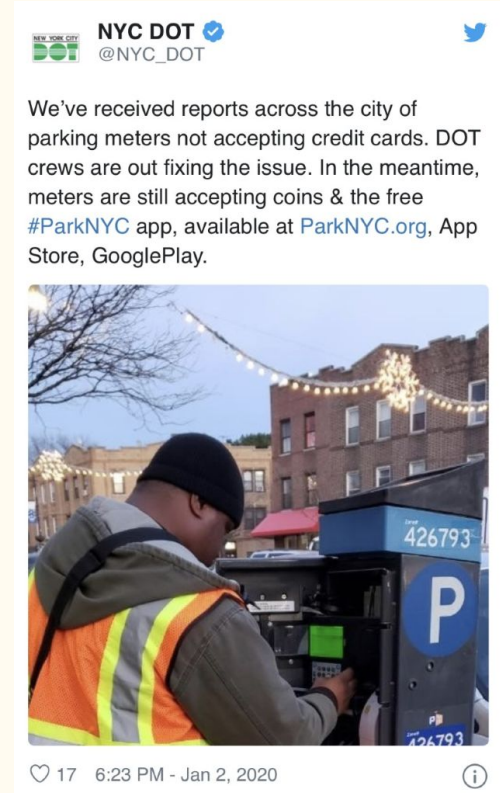
By 1940's, all the states were with meters, creating cities a revenue of approximately 10 million dollars annually.

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In NYC, around the 1960's women got hired to work as Metermaids with the mechanical parking meters.

Soon the transportation dept. were able to get the solar-powered meters. The software was able to keep up with the parking regulations. It required less maintenance and held information for up to 8 cars. Then soon enough we got the MUNI-METERS.

Now in 2020, if you got issues with the meters, it can be fixed with ParkNYC. In the city the rates are from \$3.50 to \$8+ depending where in the city, like times square, by the highline, or uptown.



How does this artifact relate to the themes we have discussed in our class?

From my perspective, I would say this relates to the general idea that space comes in many forms, and it is experienced differently. A certain space can bring in a form of capital or like in this scenario with the parking meters, it brought a lot of revenue to the city. Many actually still see it as taking money away from the people, because they see it as violating their free use of the streets. Since 1935, the courts agreed that it is not in the people's right to use a space in the streets, especially in crowded cities. This explains why in suburban areas you won't see meters for parking.



Best Advertisement for people who can't find alternate-side parking, there are always private lots!

In what ways does this artifact contribute to your understanding of urban life

I believe everything goes “hand in hand” with one another. The urban life will always have extra rules and regulations required to follow.

This artifact is just an example of many more that exist in urban areas, it shows how tiny regulations like these have made a impact to the people and the government.