

Teamwork makes the dream

The impact of soup kitchens

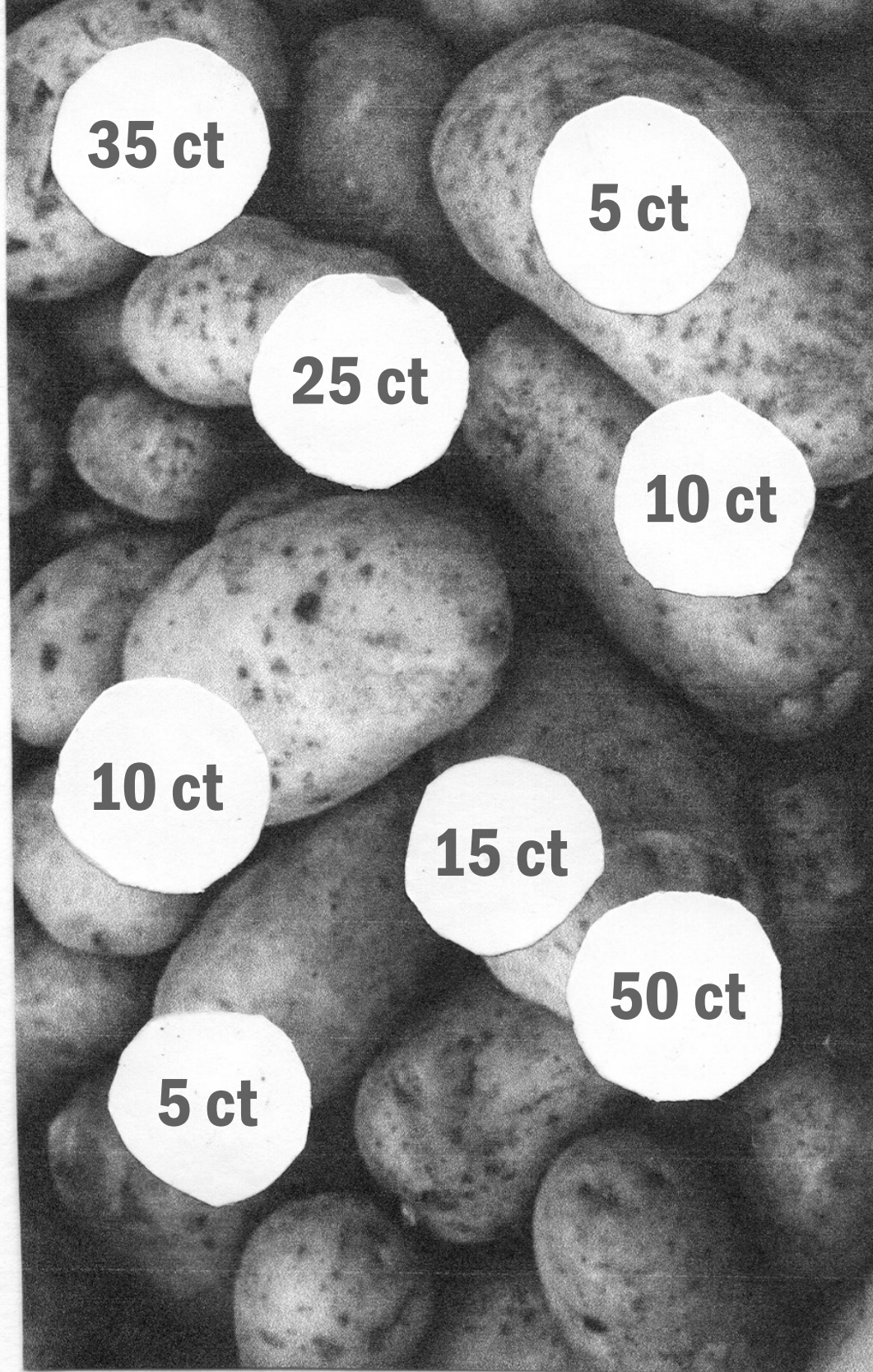
As human beings, we thrive on our connections with one another and our ability to contribute to the wellbeing of our communities.

Soup kitchens stand out for their valuable role. Despite often being viewed as a last resort for the destitute, soup kitchens offer quite a lot other benefits besides providing meals. Primarily, they create a supportive environment where people from all walks of life can come together. This kind of interaction helps break down social barriers and stereotypes, promoting a more inclusive society. It provides an opportunity for people to learn about the experiences and challenges of others, fostering empathy and understanding within the community.

Moreover, soup kitchens offer an avenue for community members to give back through volunteering. They not only provide a service but also a place where locals can contribute to the common good, whether by cooking, serving meals or cleaning up. These volunteer experiences can provide a sense of responsibility and fulfilment in individuals, strengthening community bonds.

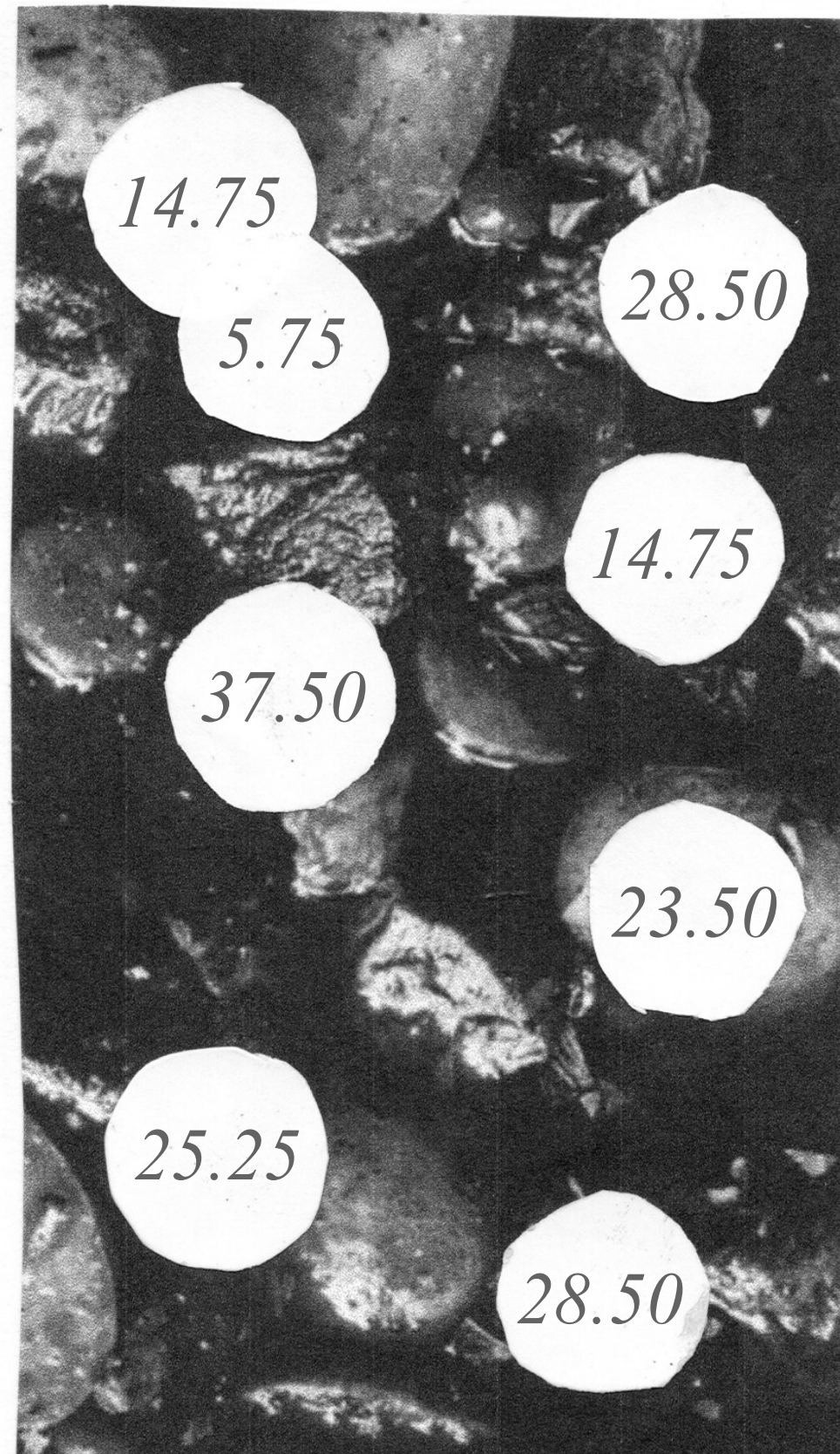
Work





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is there a decline?

Contrary to most people's beliefs soup kitchens didn't disappear entirely, rather the rate at which they appear has gone down throughout history. They were at their peak during massive crises (i.e. the Great Depression, World Wars,...) but declined due to the introduction of government welfare.

After the Great Depression in the 1930s and post-WWII economic recoveries, most governments began implementing more robust safety nets. Things like Unemployment benefits, pensions and public housing reduced the amount of individuals that were in need and relying on charity for their next meal.

While most of them vanished during the mid-20th century, soup kitchens have seen a big resurgence since the late 2000s. Lasting global food inflation (average price of food items increases over time), the 2008 Great Recession and similar events have pushed up the demand for food aid in the EU and USA.