

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN

From
**ALMAR FARM
In Transylvania**

BY CAL CARPENTER



The wage and price freeze we have now started me thinking about wages and prices the way they used to be. And I'm not thinking about ancient history either; I'm thinking about the way they were when I was a young fellow, just about 30 years ago.

This was just before and during World War II. It doesn't seem possible there could be so much change in such a short time.

I remember my first regular job after I'd finished high school and the year at Blanton's Business College in Asheville. I was hired as an accountant and motor freight rate clerk at the starting salary of \$21 a week. It was a princely sum for the time— young people were leaving the business college for \$14 or \$15 a week and glad to get it. It wasn't that I was extra smart or good that got me such a big salary — I just happened to come along at the time when the job was open.

But Boy! I lived high on the hog on that \$21 a week. I paid \$8 a week for a room (with telephone) a bath just down the hall, and three square meals a day. My laundry and dry cleaning cost about \$2 a week. I had a 1938 Plymouth coupe my Dad had helped me buy, and I was a real man about town on the \$10 or so a week I had left after my living expenses.

Social Security was one cent on the dollar — I paid 21 cents a week. Federal income tax was not withheld then and it must not have amounted to much, for I don't remember any difficulty paying it. I don't remember there being any state income tax.

In those days, a date cost me a dollar plus whatever gas was burned. This allowed for two movie fares to the best theater in town at 35 cents each and two butterscotch sundaes at Eckerd's at 15 cents each. There might have been a 1 cent sales tax on the sundaes, I've forgotten; if so, the date cost a dollar and one cent.

You could buy a new Ford, Chevrolet, or Plymouth coupe for about \$800 — if you had such a sum. A respectable suit of clothes could be bought for less than \$25, and shirts

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S. adv.

were about \$1. A real good pair of shoes could be bought for \$5.

Of course everybody's pay was low then. Skilled mechanics were glad to get \$25 to \$30 a week. School teachers were not so underpaid, comparatively, for they made about \$100 a month — for 9 months anyhow.

I know of one fellow who drove a grocery delivery truck for the old Champion Company Store at Canton — I worked there a few weeks one summer. He made \$16 a week and had made no more for years. He had a nice little house, two kids, a neat little '34 Chevy auto, and didn't seem to have a financial care in the world.

The Motor Freight line I worked for paid our "pickup" van drivers \$18 a week. The long-haul men made better, they were unionized even then — but not much more. My boss, the Agent for the line, made \$30 a week and the company furnished him a car.

But a dollar went a long way then, for food as well as clothes. You could buy a stack of pancakes with butter and syrup and two or more cups of coffee for 20 cents. A big bowl of soup was a dime, a cup of coffee a nickel; and, for those who indulged occasionally, a regular bottle of beer was 10 cents and a premium beer 15. A good plate lunch cost a quarter; I don't know what a steak dinner cost. I don't recall ever buying one.

Higher education was even more startlingly lower in view of today's cost. If a man had \$250 a year, he could go to college — all expenses including his clothes and a little entertainment included. If he were willing to work a little, he could probably make four years on just a little more than that. I know a guy who made it through the University of Arkansas on \$350. I have an old friend, a practicing surgeon in Memphis, who managed his entire medical education—premed and med school—on \$3,000.

But finished doctors didn't charge as much then, either. Most office calls were in the \$2 range and home calls (they had then) were \$5. A hospital room cost about \$7 a day; a private nurse the same. All told a person paid less

Transylvania Art Guild Has First Official Meeting, 1st

Those in attendance at the first official meeting of the Transylvania Art Guild (TAG) on October 1st were delighted and amazed as Beth Mitchell showed her expertise in watercolor.

As a special feature of interest, Mrs. Mitchell demonstrated the technique of watercolor. She emphasized the importance of having a balanced picture to start with and showed the mem-

bers several rough sketches of the same subject.

While working intently, she made comments on her procedure. For instance, when doing the sky in a landscape, she adds just a touch of glycerine to the water to keep the paper wet longer. Her preference is cold-pressed French d'arche paper of 300-pound weight. Cold pressed paper has a coarser surface which allows greater possibilities for small white spaces to be left exposed, and a heavy paper is less likely to buckle when wet.

Beth uses a small piece of natural sponge for wetting her paper, and often dabbed away excess moisture with Kleenex tissue. After doing the sky, she did the foreground (without wetting the paper first), a sequence some found unusual. She prefers this procedure in order to allow the sky to dry.

"A brush is a wonderful tool, when you're learning what it can do for you," Mrs. Mitchell added, after being asked what size brush she was using. As often as not, she used her fingers to spread color in small areas, calling fingers "wonderful things".

Now residing in Sherwood Forest, Mrs. Mitchell was born in Morris, Illinois. She has done a good bit of traveling and had on display watercolor pictures of the Smokies, Yellowstone, and the White Mts. of N. H. Beth is not only an excellent watercolor artist, but an accomplished musician as well.

The first Friday in November will be TAG's next meeting. Henry Rogers, president, will demonstrate the use of acrylics in landscapes. The public is cordially invited.

A 400 Per Cent Increase

In 1960, Japanese industry consumed 40 million pounds of primary nickel. In 1970, this had grown 400 per cent to over 200 million pounds. In 1980, estimated demand for the versatile element in Japan is expected to be about 425 million pounds, or just 10 million pounds under total free world consumption of nickel in 1959.

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**This Coming Sunday
Homecoming At St. Timothy
United Methodist Church**

The annual Homecoming at St. Timothy United Methodist Church will be observed Sunday, October 17th.

The observance will begin with Church School at 9:45 a.m. and be followed by Morning Worship at 11:00.

A special feature of the Service will be the sermon delivered by the Rev. Joseph M. Reeves, who was pastor here from 1963 until this year. It is also expected that other former pastors will participate in the Service.

The Service will be followed by a basket dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Timothy United Methodist Church is the outgrowth of the former Oak Grove Church established during the Camp Meeting days of the American frontier. It is the Mother Church of Methodism in Transylvania County, and has served the community for over 125 years.

The congregation outgrew the facilities of Oak Grove Church, and in June, 1963, the name was changed to St. Timothy Methodist Church with a new location about a half mile farther down the Asheville Highway. A new sanctuary was begun in 1963 and the first Service of Worship was held in the completed building Sunday, January 12, 1969.

All members, friends, and the public are cordially invited to the celebration of this Homecoming.

Next Door Neighbors Housewife to salesman at door: "I'm not in the market for a vacuum cleaner, but try the people in the next house. We borrow theirs, and it is in terrible condition."

From Tiger Rag

**Former Teacher At Rosman
Writes Faculty And Students**

Mrs. Stocklen is now residing at Mackinac Island, Michigan. She is presently staying at the Grand Hotel, the world's largest summer hotel. We really appreciated her nice letter and we would like to say thank you, Mrs. Stocklen.

if you see Tom and I at one of your football games in late Oct or early Nov.

Speaking of football, we wish the team and coaches a "super" season. I'll be following your success in the Times.

Aug. 23, 1971

Dear Mr. Warren, Faculty, and students,

I could not let the school year begin without my wishes for a wonderful year. I've thought about all of you at Rosman High, so very often. I wish I could be there to begin another new school year with you.

Let me say to those of you who are new on the faculty, that you are in for a wonderful teaching experience with the most wonderful students in the world! Those of you returning to R.H.S. already know this, of course.

Best of luck with your mini courses and with the entire year. I'd love a copy of the "Tiger Rag" and I'd love to hear from everyone at R.H.S.

My love to all of you Mrs. Stocklen

P.S. I still cherish all my "flowers" from R.H.S. They are still very much alive.

Pictured above, is my "summer home." We will be working here until Oct. 3. Then we plan to get settled here in Michigan and then go to Florida for the winter. Don't be too surprised



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