

FAMILY OF 3 NEEDS OVER \$1,950.00 TO BREAK EVEN

Washington, Dec. 10. — If you're the wage-earner in the average city family of three people, and you don't make at least \$1.05 an hour, 40 hours a week, the government figures you will have a rough time breaking even on living costs this year.

The Labor Department announced that you could just about make the grade last year—living "very modestly"—on a net income of \$1,950 annually, after taxes—or about \$1.03 1/2 an hour. But the Bureau of Labor statistics estimates living costs are up 2 per cent now compared with 1944.

Basing its report on a cross-section survey of approximately 1,700 consumers in 102 cities, the bureau found that, in 1944, nearly a fourth of all city families of two or more persons had net incomes of less than \$1,950. And, said the bureau, these went into debt or drew on savings to keep abreast of expenses.

On the average, the \$1,950 was just enough to cover living expenses, small gifts and contributions but left nothing for savings such as war bonds and life insurance premiums. However, the bureau said, families in this bracket did buy an average of \$168 in war bonds, going into debt or drawing on savings to do so.

Half of the families, and single persons in the nation's cities had net incomes of less than \$2,700 in 1944—when family incomes reached their highest level in history. About one-fifth were under \$1,500.

Last year's \$1,950 family—which, in 1941, could have gotten along on \$1,475—spent an average of barely 22 cents a meal per person and \$30 a month for housing, fuel, light and refrigeration. Income, personal property and poll taxes accounted for \$119, the bureau said.

The report estimated that in half of the families with net incomes of \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year, at least two persons were wage-earners.

It was noted that retail food prices in cities rose 29 per cent between 1941 and 1944. The bureau figured that single persons, living independently covered expenses if their incomes after taxes averaged \$1,150, but had no net savings. About two-fifths of all single men and women were below that figure last year, it said, and ran into debt.

Only 12 1/2 per cent of the nation's wage-earners—single or married—had incomes of \$5,000 a year or more after payment of taxes. The survey fixed the average net income in this bracket at \$7,634, of which \$4,324 went for food, clothing, housing, medical care and other current consumption expenses and \$2,856 represented war bonds, insurance premiums, or other savings.

Christmas Dance At Shelby Dec. 27

As a benefit project for its annual scholarship award, the Shelby Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas Dance on Thursday night, December 27, at the Armory Auditorium in Shelby.

Highlighting the Cleveland Yuletide special events, the dance will feature music by Dean Hudson and his nationally-known orchestra. The event will get underway at 9:30 and both spectators, as well as dancers will be admitted.

Dean Hudson will present his entire 17-piece band, including lovely Frances Caldwell, known as the Florida songbird.

The Jaycee scholarship award was established last year when a fund of \$200.00 was set up to be presented to the most deserving Shelby High School graduate. Awarded only after thorough investigation and based on grades, interest and general activities, the scholarship is presented strictly to students who need the fund in order to seek further education.

TAKE A VICTORY BOND — IT'S FREE

BY BRUCE BARTON
I have heard people sigh at word of the Victory Loan Campaign, and say, "I suppose I have to buy another bond. But I don't see how I can afford it."

This is just like saying, "I suppose I really ought to start saving money, but it's an awfully expensive thing to do!"

The fact is, of course, that you don't buy bonds. As W. B. Bachman, a Detroit writer, forcefully pointed out the other day, the speakers on the radio and the poster artists and the advertising writers have been using the wrong word for four long years. They have been asking the public to do something that is impossible. You can't spend money on bonds. You simply take them. They cost you nothing. My E bonds are nothing but certificates showing that the Bank of America has made a deposit in the U. S. Treasury instead of in a bank or a cookie jar. When we take an E bond, we transfer a bank deposit to the safest depository in the world—the U. S. Treasury. We put in non-interest notes and we get an interest-bearing note as our deposit slip!

To take a bond—note that word "take"—is still a patriotic act. That alone is inducement enough for any American. Just as your money in the bank pays for loans and investments and all the bank's manifold activities so your money in the U. S. Treasury helps to care for the wounded, to end war contracts, to maintain armies of occupation, to bring home returning fighters, to prevent inflation. Your bonds brought about the mighty atomic blasts that put a period to this war. Your bonds today are returning flesh to the bones of those who survived—of Wainwright, of Boyington, of our men who played their own gallant parts in the total defeat of our enemies.

I remember reading the typical experience of George Lott, whose two arms were shredded by a mortar on the Lorraine front. From his battalion aid station Lott was transported 4500 miles in easy stages, by ambulance, train and plane. He passed through three field dressing stations and five hospitals in France and England before being returned to the United States for final treatment and recovery. Your bonds paid for the care of all the George Lotts of this war.

And yet you can count on getting back \$4 for every \$3 you put in!

So get bonds today—get them regularly—and hold onto them. That is about as close as you are likely to come in this life to having your cake and eating it too.

WEDDING DATE CHANGED LEATHERMAN-LEONHARDT

The wedding of Miss Edna Ruth Leatherman and Glenn R. Leonhardt has been changed from Saturday, December 22, to Sunday, December 23, at six o'clock in the Bethphage Lutheran church. The change was made because of a conflict in dates. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be performed by Rev. L. S. Miller.

SOCIETY NEWS

MRS. S. M. BUTLER HOSTESS TO FRIDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

Mrs. S. M. Butler was hostess to the Friday Afternoon Book Club on December 12th, at 3:30 o'clock. The living room was beautifully decorated in snapdragons and mistletoe. A Christmas wreath and Christmas stockings hung from the mantel; embers glowed in the fireplace, and a Christmas tree, flanked with red burning tapers, adorned the dining room table. Mrs. J. E. Dellinger, president, presided over the business session during which books were selected for the coming year. Mrs. J. W. Payne in a most pleasing manner presented the life of Admiral Ernest J. King, the last of the five star admirals and generals whom the club had studied this year, the retirement of Admiral King fittingly coinciding with the conclusion of the year's programs. Mrs. H. H. Allen gave the life of P. W. Carter, whose pseudonym is

Benet, the author of "Old Mrs. Camelot". Mrs. R. J. Morrison read two legends of the origin of "The Night Before Christmas". Mrs. Victor Stroup presented each member with a most attractive Christmas booklet of Friday Afternoon Book Club recipes with a unique Christmas tree cover, showing Christmas tree decked with names of club members. Each member drew a present from under the Christmas tree in the dining room, and a most delightful social hour followed. The hostess, assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Ben R. Rudisill, served delicious seasonal refreshment, in two courses to the entire club membership; Mrs. H. L. Allen, J. Ben Dellinger, J. D. Hobbs, R. J. Morrison, Victor Stroup, W. F. Starnes, D. A. Rudisill, J. W. Payne, C. A. Rudisill, Mrs. D. R. Mauney, Sr., and R. C. Sharpe.

CARLTON WOMAN'S CLUB ENTER-TAINED AT A BUFFET SUPPER

Saturday Evening December 15th at 6:30, the Carlton Woman's Club enjoyed a delicious three course Turkey Dinner served buffet style. The occasion was the annual Christmas Party of the Club. The tables were centered with poinsettias, large silver tipped pine burs and sprays of long leaf pine.

After dinner the ladies assembled in the sun parlor where gifts were exchanged among club members. This was most enjoyable as names had been drawn at a previous meeting. The club presented to Mrs. Stroup and Mrs. Leonard handsome gifts. Mrs. Stroup presented each of her Club members with a lovely crystal vase.

Mrs. C. E. McCurry received a gift for having the largest amount of money in her Christmas savings account.

The motto for this club is "Not for ourselves, but for others" accordingly before adjournment

a cash contribution of \$29.00 was made for an unfortunate friend, this amount to be added to a donation from the Men's Club. Plans were made to visit the County Home in January. This seemed to be a more fitting time to visit there since so many organizations go at this season. This trip to the County Home is an annual affair with the Club. Each inmate is remembered with a nice bag of fruit and a small gift. Club members have made many friends among the inmates both white and colored, who always anticipate the coming of the Carlton folks.

With the singing of Christmas hymns and Carols the party drew to a close. As the concluding song the ever popular "White Christmas" was thoroughly enjoyed since the ground was covered with a blanket of new fallen snow.

MRS. HAROLD MCGINNIS
Rec. Secretary.

Mt. Zion W. M. U. Held Meeting

The Mount Zion W. M. U. held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Miss Sally and Alfa Huffman. The Devotional Isaiah 48:1-10 was read by Miss Lethia Beam and prayer was offered by Miss Vassie Lee Hicks. Those taking part in the program were:

Mrs. Hugh Helms, Mrs. Aileen Fisher, Miss Vassie Lee Hicks, Miss Betty Jane Deimon, Mrs. A. C. Deimon, Mrs. M. L. Beam, Miss Sally Huffman, and Mrs. Tommy McNeely.

A song, "O Holy Child of Bethlehem" was sung by the members—prayer was said by Rev. J. W. Costner. Then as the Secretary called the roll, the members exchanged gifts. The decorations were in keeping with the Holiday.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Soil Conservation NEWS

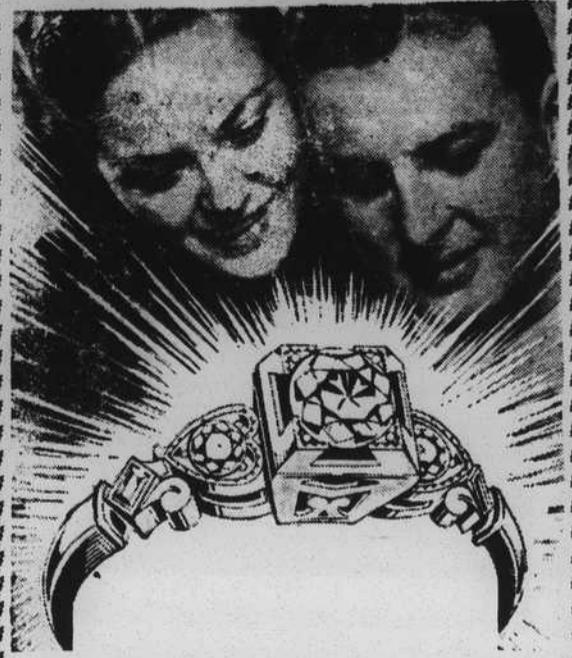
Some interesting information and data on soil loss measurements was reported recently from the Southern Piedmont Conservation Experiment Station, located at Watkinville, Georgia. The report showed that soil loss, based on five years of record, from cotton grown continuously, on land with seven percent slope (average slope for Gaston County) in the three summer months—June, July and August—was 64 percent of the year's total; soil loss and that during the six spring and summer months—March through August—was 87 percent of the year's total. The report showed erosion from continuous cotton was higher in July than any other month. The losses during the six months—fall and winter period, from September through February—represented only 13 percent of the year's erosion, the period that most farmers think erosion is most severe, against 87 percent loss of the period March through August. Therefore, spring and summer erosion was nearly seven times as great as fall and winter erosion, which indicates that more emphasis should be given to soil protection in the summer with mechanical supporting practices such as terracing, contour row systems and building up the humus content to meet this condition.

BUY BONDS

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING FUND

DATE _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Amount \$ _____

The above form is prepared for any one wishing to contribute funds to the First Methodist Church here. Fire completely destroyed the handsome building early last Sunday morning. Just clip the form above and send check or money order to the pastor, L. P. Barnett and it will be applied to the building fund, as they are planning on re-building just as soon as possible.



Beautiful Diamond Engagement Rings
\$27.50 TO \$200.00

Exquisite Dinner Rings—
\$18.50 TO \$62.50

Ladies Birthstone
Rings—
\$4.50 Up

LOCKETS with Diamond Settings—
\$15.95 Up

GENTS STONE RINGS—
\$20.00 Up

Gents Wedding Bands—
\$12.50 Up

Boy's Birthstone Rings—Stones For Each Month—
\$12.50

Little Girls Birthstone Rings—
\$5.95

Baby Rings—
\$1.25 TO \$4.50

Baby Locketts and Crosses—
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Gents 15-Jewel Watches \$33.75

Gents Self-wind Waterproof Shock-proof Watches—
\$62.50

Billfolds for every type of users—Ladies, Gents, and Service Billfolds—
\$4.50 TO \$16.50

All our Billfolds are Guaranteed to be Genuine Skin Leather.

32-Piece Sets China \$8.50 to \$14.75

Bibles and Testaments 75c to \$6

Inkograph Fountain Pens \$2.00

COME IN EARLY THIS WEEK AND SELECT YOUR GIFTS. USE JONES' THREE-WAYS TO PAY—CASH—CREDIT—LAY-A-WAY.

NOTE: As Our Usual Custom Each Holiday Season, there will be FREE GIFTS AGAIN THIS YEAR.

JONES
JEWELERS
BESSEMER CITY N.C.

"The Store Of Honest Service"

Biggest Holiday Rush on Long Distance



Long Distance will be busier than ever this Christmas. So please do not make any but necessary calls on December 24 and 25.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED

NEW ENGINES

(LESS ACCESSORIES)

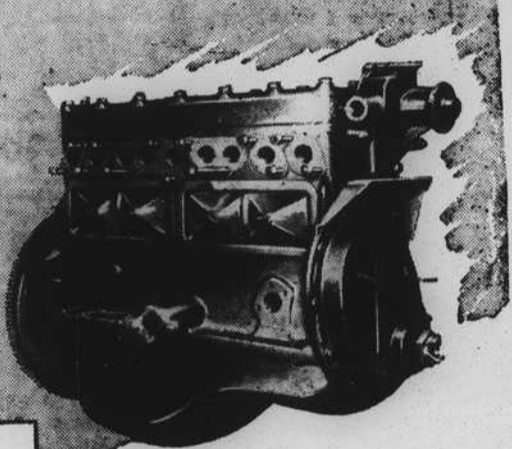
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