

# Even Crystal Gazers Can't See Major Cut In Cost of Living

Experts Convinced There'll Be No Return To the Old 'Normalcy' in Our Time

By S. BURTON HEATH, NEA Staff Correspondent  
NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The cost of living is up to stay. The current crisis in food prices will pass—some time—and the cost of steaks and eggs and tomatoes will settle back.

But living costs never, in our time, will return to what the American consumer likes to think of as "normalcy."

That is the almost unanimous opinion of a variety of experts consulted in an attempt to find out why the cost of living—and particularly the cost of food—is skyrocketing so fast that it already has broken through all previous ceilings.

Even the brash expert admits that he cannot give a clearcut explanation of what is happening to prices, or put the finger on any villain who is even principally responsible.

But, most of those consulted agree that certain factors are very important. These—not necessarily in order of their importance—are:

**ONE: THE TREMENDOUSLY HIGH LEVEL OF CONSUMER DEMAND.**  
During and since the war the incomes of workers have been built to levels that, not long before, would have been considered fantastic. Even with wartime rationing and shortages, workers' families learned to use and want, regularly, food items that used to be rare luxuries.

Output of many food items is at record high level. But it has not risen enough to satisfy the increased demand bred by full employment at high wages.

**TWO: THE FOREIGN SITUATION.**

As the only nation with even relative plenty, we are called upon to help feed the distressed peoples of the Old World. We already have shipped quite a lot, but probably not enough to light such a fire under domestic prices.

**THREE: THE FARMER'S NEW PROSPERITY.**

For the first time in years the American farmer is sitting on top of the world. The prices he is getting have risen more, by all



Mr. Heath

indices, than the prices he is paying — and more than the prices city folk are paying for farm products.

To that extent, he is to blame for at least part of the high cost of food. But even city economists agree that the level from which he started was below that from which urban workers started. Thus, while the farmer never was so prosperous in history, he still is no more prosperous than the factory workers.

**FOUR: THE SUMMER'S DROUGHT.** A cold, wet spring delayed corn planting. Then floods washed out a lot of the rooting crop and forced a second, late planting. Before this late crop could mature it was hit by the worst drought since dust-bowl days.

As a result, the government corn estimate made Sept. 10 predicts only 2,404,000,000 bushels, a drop of 874,000,000 bushels, or about 27 per cent, from last year's crop.

Corn is close to 75 per cent of the grain fed to farm animals. When corn is scarce or high priced, this directly affects the cost of meat, fats, milk, butter, eggs, poultry, cheese.

Neither animals nor humans yet are eating the 1947 corn crop. Theoretically, its shortage should not be felt until later.

The principal elements of the picture can be summarized in this way:

Permanent inflation of the American price structure is here. Six months ago economists expected it to level off at around 50 per cent above 1939. Now they are sure this was over-optimistic and they don't dare make a substitute guess.

It is caused by full employment, high wages, an improved standard of living in cities and on farms. It will fluctuate, perhaps, considerably, but in our time at least it won't go away.

# French Farmer Is Well Off, Highly Envied

Rich Not in Money, But in Livestock

By JOHN W. LOVE  
Karlapp-Howard Staff Writer  
PARIS, France, Sept. 22.—"The farmers are the rich people today," a priest said to me in Orleans.

"They are the best buyers," said a merchant in Chartres. "Such goods as bedding and household supplies, and men's and women's clothing from Paris. We could sell them much more merchandise if we could get it."

"The farmers are better off than they have ever been," said the editor of a paper.

**Envious Prosperity**  
The prosperity of the French farmers is the envy and admiration of people in a dozen communities in which I inquired while on two automobile trips out of Paris.

These journeys of about 75 miles were in two directions, southwest and northeast. In that area wheat is ordinarily the chief crop, sugar beets and potatoes next.

Signs of the drought were everywhere evident, in wilted gardens and dusty fields. But on the whole it was still a green and pleasant country.

**Savings in Cattle**  
The townspeople say the farmer is rich, but he is rich not in money but in livestock.

The traveler can readily learn why bread and potatoes are scarce everywhere and meat high-priced in the cities. One trouble in France is that the country is building up savings too fast—savings in cattle.

A butcher in Chartres said the meat markets were open three days a week, a butcher in Compiègne said one day a week.

**Black-Market Meat**  
A good deal of the meat, he said, was being butchered in the country and sold in town through the black market. He was sure the regular dealers weren't getting it all.

One of the butchers said more meat would soon be coming in as farmers felt the feed shortage.

The editor said the farmers were not actually holding out much produce for higher prices but were feeding all they could to their cattle.



**PANORAMA**—You'll never find it on an Indianapolis picture postcard, but this is the antique panorama the visitor to the city sees as he steps off the train at Union station. The S. Illinois st. section has barely changed in 70 years.

# Maybe Gunther Judged Our City by Dingy S. Illinois St.

Flamboyant Posters, Battered Buildings, Filthy Clutter Greet Weary Train Traveler

By RICHARD LEWIS  
What John Gunther probably saw when he hurled his provocative insult at Indianapolis as the dirtiest town inside the U. S. A. was the three-block panorama of the past on S. Illinois st. between Union station and Washington st.

While this section of town is no dirtier than the rest of the city, it presents a ramshackle vista to greet the visitor as he steps off the train and trudges north.

Maybe it's the way the conductor bellows, "INDIANAPOLIS" as the train comes in, as though announcing the promised land. Maybe that's what leads travelers like Mr. Gunther to expect something.

**Legends and Trash**  
Entertainment is offered by two venerable motion picture houses decorated with flamboyant posters of life in the old west. The burlesque house is also something of an institution on the street.

Its coy photographic exhibit under glass is in tune with the rest of the street. It hasn't changed in years.

Pigeons inhabit the gutters on the roof of old brick buildings with dingy windows and scarred fronts. Legend has it that the building at the northwest corner of Maryland and Illinois sts. was a hotel or a boarding house.

According to the legend, Benjamin Harrison and his wife moved in there when they first came to Indianapolis and there their son was born.

The street is loaded with legends. It is also filled sometimes with trash. And that's what the newcomer sees when he gets off the train at

# Ex-Marine Becomes Boss Of Boston's Baby Sitters

Service Provides Mothers, Grandmothers, \$25,000 Accident Insurance for Each Child

By GRACE DESCHAMPS, NEA Special Writer  
BOSTON, Sept. 22.—"I have gleaned what you could call a wealth of experience," the deep baritone voice booms.

Ex-Marine Lt. Joseph L. Driscoll isn't talking about fighter planes. He means babies.

Mr. Driscoll has made baby-sitting big business. Grateful Boston parents keep his telephone ringing demanding the services of his hundred or so A-1 carefully screened baby sitters.

He started thinking about a post-war career as a baby-sitting specialist while still shooting Japanese. He had found his own brief war-time leaves fouled up because he couldn't find a satisfactory baby sitter.

One they hired turned their home into a temporary five hall and left the baby to its own devices—the child was trying to swallow a marble when the Driscolls returned.



Mr. Driscoll

**The Idea Stuck**  
A combat disability and a long terminal leave gave Mr. Driscoll time to survey the baby-sitting field in New York, Washington, Philadelphia and other large cities. He found it ranged from bad to worse.

"I've a single-track mind," Mr. Driscoll laughs. "That baby-sitting idea stuck in it. I had to find out what was really being done to make a needed service efficient."

He found that baby-sitting functioned, for the most part under familiar handicaps; teen-age sitters who failed to take their responsibilities seriously, fees that were too high, and a general lack of protection for children and parents.

Mr. Driscoll's new service provides mothers—or grandmothers, experienced with children of their own, as sitters, a \$25,000 accident insurance policy for each child, and 24-hour emergency service from a physicians' and nurses' bureau. All this for 60 cents an hour.

**Sitters Get 45 Cents**  
The knowledge that one's children are in good hands, that expert medical and nursing care are quickly available, if necessary, and that each child is well protected by insurance, can go a long way to make a theater party more enjoyable for conscientious parents, Mr. Driscoll says.

# Booster Club Elects Christie

Marvin Christie, Southport high school athlete, has been elected president of the school's Booster club.

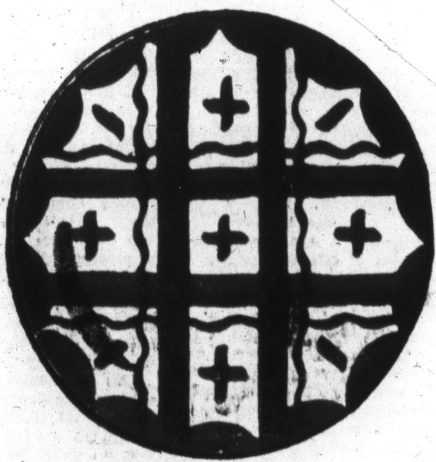
The club voted to increase the number of yell leaders from three to five and renamed Don Harley and Suzanne and Barbara Danner to the position. New yell leaders selected are Katherine Dampier and Anita Williams with Betty Jones as substitute.

Beverly Baird has been elected president of the school's chapter of National Honor society. Other officers include Nancy Hendricks, vice president; Nancy Ford, secretary, and Rosemary Arndt, treasurer. Other members of the chapter are Betty Anderson, Dolores Nerding and Madeline Stark.

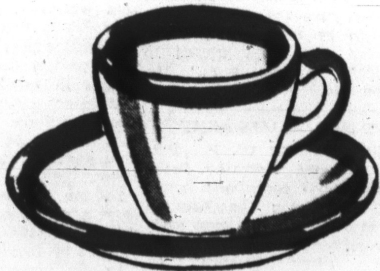
Southport Hi-Y club officers and committee chairmen will attend the "older boys' training conference" at Flat Rock river, Oct. 27-28. Club officers are Dale Bough, president; Bob Biddick, vice president; Carl Kauffman, secretary; Bill Whitaker, assistant secretary; Richard Miner, treasurer; Ray Bertram, assistant treasurer; Bob Manning and Wendell Leedy, chaplains, and Marvin Christie and Bob MacBeth, sergeants-at-arms.



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