

Those Food Prices-- Up, Up And Away

by HELEN RICE

Surveys and statistics, grocery ads and flattened purses all say it--food prices are up, up, up.

But shoppers in Observerland seem resigned and taking it in stride.

"Prices! They're terrible, especially meat. We've noticed it most in the last six months," said Mrs. William Barry, starting her shopping in a Westland supermarket.

"Our boys are 16, 15 and six and the girls are 20 and 18, so we need lots of good food. The 16-year-old can eat a whole bag of apples and a package of cookies in one day's snacking and not gain an ounce."

"We make sure to have home baked cookies and desserts--the girls make them to help me out."

OTHER DOLLAR -- STRETCHERS Mrs. Barry mentioned include regular use of reconstituted dry skim milk for dripping and cooking, and alternating inexpensive dishes like creamed chicken on biscuits, with menus calling for costlier items.

Until five years ago the Barrys spent only \$20 a week at the store. Now it's \$50, but the chief reason is their change from farm to suburban living. They were living on a farm at Fairhaven and raising their own beef cattle and produce.

Job transfers for the head of the house brought moves to New Orleans, then Atlanta, and now Ann Arbor and Westland.

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT

Mrs. Barry and others aren't just imagining things when it comes to meat and other food prices.

To check the obvious message of the pocketbook, we went back to some old issues of THE OBSERVER.

Center cut pork chops and beef pot roast had a list of favorite meats that have edged up 10, 15, and 20 cents per serving. The advertisement for one big chain store in June of 1962 listed pork chops at 69 cents a pound. The same store featured them two years ago at 79 and a couple of weeks ago at 99.

Round steak has risen in just two years from 85 to 99 cents a pound.

Wheat bread was available in 1962 at 17 cents a loaf. The best buy this June was four loaves for a dollar.

By contrast, poultry has stayed pretty constant. The same 29 cents that would buy a pound of cut-up fryers in 1962 could be used for whole fryers on sale during June, 1969.

And that reflects the recurring complaint of the more elderly shopper. One said it this way:

"Meat is getting much too high for anyone on retirement. Poultry and fish are all I can afford, and sometimes I get hungry for a good pork chop or T-bone steak."

FURTHER EVIDENCE of these price comes from the most recent figures released by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which carries on continuous price surveys through-



SHOPPER SHUDDER Daughters Mary Margaret, left, and Edgen can hardly believe Mrs. Patrick Topolowski needs so many dollars for family supplies. The girls are the youngest of five children in the Farmington household. (Event photo)

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out the country.

Prices rose in the Detroit area twice as much in May as the nation as a whole, but on the other hand, remained slightly below the national average, if that's any comfort.

For the base period of 1957-59 consumer items that would have cost \$10 are now \$12.64, according to the BLS report.

MRS. PAUL SAMBRONE of Plymouth, doing some mid-week shopping to restock her supply of baby food, said she watches ads "for the best buys, especially on meat."

"Haven't meat prices gone up something awful since January?" she exclaimed.

"My husband has a good business with his service station and we can afford what we need, but it's awful hard for a lot of my neighbors that are divorced and are trying to take care of their children on dole money."

"We sure do hope this weather won't spoil the local farm market season because it's such a help later on, to be able to buy whole baskets of tomatoes for \$1 or \$1.50."

JERRY ANDERSON, a young bachelor who has finished college and Army service and is about to move from Livonia to the West Coast, observed that the only way to shop is "to pick out what's the best for the money by taking time to read and compare labels."

"I've studied a lot of economics," the University of Michigan grad said, "and while food prices aren't that much of a problem for me, I believe people need to make a study of their uses of their income. I don't see what else we can do about the price situation as individuals."

Mrs. Joan Grochowski of Dearborn Heights noted during a Westland shopping expedition with four young children that "it's getting tougher and tougher to feed a family on amounts that we used to think were plenty even a year ago."

"We depend for main dishes on variations of hamburger," she added, "because the kids are under 10 and that's what they like anyway."

family supplies. The girls are the youngest of five children in the Farmington household. (Event photo)

was her thought. "But I guess our markup is so small the store probably couldn't do that."

That surmise is born out by the marketing experts. A recent statement from G.M. England, University of Illinois agricultural economist, said meat departments in most food stores operate at little or no net profit, and lowered prices are meant to attract customers who might then buy higher-profit items before they leave.

Harold Neigh, consumer economics specialist for Pennsylvania State University, agrees with him, and also warns that

there's little relief in sight on meat prices this summer. The best way to save money, Neigh said, is to buy specials.

Mrs. Patrick Topolowski of Farmington likes to go to a bakery every Sunday for quantities of day-old bread and baked goods at reduced rates and freeze supplies for future weeks.

"I find it a good plan to do my weekly shopping early Friday morning, but this doesn't include meat," she Mrs. Topolowski's observation. She then detailed her plan of many years that involved quantity buying of beef and chicken freezer lockers.

But those without freezer lockers or the know-how for the most careful planning will have to echo the wall heard over and over:

"How can anyone on average pay afford to feed a family?"

Rouge Valley Installs Officers

Mrs. Grace Stiefers of Inkster was installed recently as president of the Rouge Valley branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association. Other officers are Mrs. Doyle Davidson of Dearborn, vice president; Mrs. Luther Smith of Dearborn Heights, recording secretary; and Mrs. Henry Valtor of Inkster, treasurer.

The installation was held in the home of Mrs. C. D. Pierced of Livonia. Mrs. L. P. Carlette and "Flowers of the Bible."

CWC Plans July Luncheon Northwest and Suburban Christian Women's Club will present mezzo soprano Ingrid Carlson and a beauty demonstration at July 8 luncheon meeting at Livon Gables.

Mrs. Rose Williamson will be the speaker. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. E. Nelson, 16764 Lola Drive, Dearborn Township, or Mrs. P. Stewart, 24402 W. Nine Mile, Farmington.

Hi Mom! Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Crain Jr. of Livonia, announce the birth of a daughter, Donna Leigh, on June 17 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Their four children are Mrs. Rita Shearer of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Mrs. Lawrence Tibbitts, Air Force recruiter in Chicago; Mrs. Betty Whayt of Livonia and Pamela, who lives with her parents. They also have eight grandchildren.

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The Observer Women

m. m. memos

Most writers will tell you that getting the written word down on paper is, like invention, one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration.

Our family's youngest writer recently gave us a case in point.

It was a dull evening, so she arranged paper and pencil on the table and then came to ask me how to spell "animal."

I spelled it for her, and she departed, only to return to find out how to spell "upon."

This time she confided she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" I asked.

"Well, I'm not sure, but I think it will be about two pages," was the answer.

There was just one more spelling request—for the word "animal," which isn't surprising because she says it "animal."

Then I was handed an epic about a child whose pets numbered six cats, 10 dogs, 17 cows, 16 horses, 11 pigs, 22 chickens, 13 chicks and five goats.

This child, it seems, "loved her animals because she loved her farm and she loved her mother and father so much that she put on a show with her mother and father and animals for the whole town and she lived happily ever after."

It was only about one page, but we're thinking of peddling it to Hollywood. The plot may be a little weak, but just think of the cost!

—Margaret Miller

MR. AND MRS. A. A. MORELL

50 Years For Morells

Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Morell, long-time residents of Redford Township who have retired to their native Ludington, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception for friends and family June 29.

Morell was employed by the Kelvintor Corp., as director of purchasing and by Murray Corp. as a buyer for 40 years in Detroit.

Their daughter and two sons and their families attended the anniversary festivities. They are Mrs. Robert F. Powers of Saginaw, William A. Morell of Redford Township, a 17th district court officer, and Richard L. Morell, of Colorado Springs, who formerly served as a Redford Township supervisor.

Tibbitts Mark 40th

Former Plymouth Mayor Floyd Tibbitts and Mrs. Tibbitts marked their 40th wedding anniversary Monday, June 30, in West Palm Beach, Fla., where they now make their home.

Tibbitts now is manager of Autoproducts in Boynton Beach and Mrs. Tibbitts is a beautician at the Breaker's Hotel in Palm Beach.

Their four children are Mrs. Rita Shearer of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Mrs. Lawrence Tibbitts, Air Force recruiter in Chicago; Mrs. Betty Whayt of Livonia and Pamela, who lives with her parents. They also have eight grandchildren.

Meet Cherie Ann

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mascarelli, of 21825 Hazelwood, Westland, announce the birth of a daughter, Cherie Ann, in Ann Arbor Hospital, Wayne.

The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mascarelli of Garden City. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Girard Sr., of Romulus Township.

1962

WUDLE RYERS WHOLE FRESH

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Center Cut Rib Pork Chops 69¢

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CREAM TANT COFFEE 49¢

Bread... 17¢

1969

WHOLE Fresh Fryers 29¢

Semi-Boneless Ham 65¢

Center Cut Rib Pork Chops 99¢

Beef Rib Roast 99¢

Split Broilers 39¢

Corned Beef 77¢

Beltsville Turkeys 49¢

New Home Livonia Jaycee Auxiliary Economist Names 1st Life Member

Mrs. Judith B. Bednar has been appointed home economist with the Cooperative Extension Service in Wayne County. Her appointment, approved June 20 by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, becomes effective July 1.

Mrs. Bednar will work part-time in Wayne County. Her headquarters will be at the Extension office at 5455 Wayne Road in Wayne. She will share duties in family living education with full time home economists Mrs. June Sears and Mrs. Kathleen Butten.

Mrs. Bednar holds a BS degree in home economics from Ohio State University. She's been teaching in Lincoln Park since 1965.

Mrs. Frank Webster, a member of the Livonia Jaycee Auxiliary since 1961, became its first lifetime member in a surprise presentation recently.

Mrs. Webster was president of the auxiliary during the 1963-64 year. The group was organized 11 years ago.

"It was a complete surprise," she said, "and it seemed everyone else had known about it for weeks. I don't know how arrom as big as this kept a secret that long."

Treasurer: Mrs. James Davey, corresponding secretary and Mrs. John Wood, recording secretary.

Mrs. Gordon Page, Mrs. William McGurle and Mrs. Larry Stawarski are the new directors.

member for 1968 and Mrs. Zenas as its outstanding local member. Mrs. Robert Bishop was chosen outstanding Jaycette.



LIFE MEMBER — Mrs. Sarah Webster, center, is the first lifetime member of the Livonia Jaycee Auxiliary. Admiring her award with her are Mrs. Sharon Brown, left, president for 1969-70, and Mrs. Sue Trisch, retiring president who has been named one of the outstanding auxiliary heads in Michigan.