

Money, Money

By Jim Forney

Every year Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics and other fields of study. One of these fields is economics. The prizes are given to individuals to recognize their achievements in their specific area.

The 1985 award in economics was won by Franco Modigliani. Born in Italy 67 years ago, he left his home country just before World War II, fear-

ing for his safety because he was Jewish. He continued his studies in the U.S. and became a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

In awarding him the prize, the Nobel committee considered an important article he wrote in 1944 about how the amount of money earned by workers had an effect on unemployment. He believed that if businesses were facing bad times, fewer workers would be

hired. Workers priced themselves out of the job market.

Dr. Modigliani is probably best known for his theory about the life cycle of personal savings. Simply, he wrote that people saved now in order to spend later. Young people saved more of their money so they could live on their savings after they retired and no longer earned wages.

He also predicted that if the 1980 tax law did not include encouragement for people to save, the U.S. dollar would become too strong. Perhaps you've heard on the news recently that this has come true. This makes it hard to sell

U.S. goods overseas and causes us to buy foreign goods, such as cars. When this happens, American workers lose their jobs.

The Nobel Prize includes a check for \$225,000. With it Dr. Modigliani may buy a new sailboat. What will he do with the rest of it? Save it, of course!

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POPCORN

Popcorn is a very popular snack food that has been around for a long time. As a matter of fact, ancient clay and metal poppers found in Mexico, South America and the southwestern United States indicate that Mexican Indians were popping corn long before the Spanish explorers arrived in America.

Popcorn brought as a goodwill present by an Indian was served at the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Soon colonists were growing popcorn in their own gardens.

In 1885 Charles Cretors of Chicago invented the first steam-powered popping machine. When traveling salesmen began selling Cretors' poppers, the popcorn business was on its way.

What magic makes those kernels burst into popcorn? There's a natural moisture in the kernels which, when the popcorn is heated, turns into steam. The outer coat of the kernel is so tough and watertight that the steam is

By Agnes Kempton

trapped inside. The pressure from the trapped steam builds up until suddenly the kernels explode. They turn inside out and puff up to many times their original size.

Popcorn should be kept in an airtight container to preserve the moisture content. If kernels have lost their pop, chances are some of the moisture has been lost. Put the kernels into an airtight pint jar and add a teaspoon of water. Shake the container several times a day for two or three days before using.

Compared to other snack foods, popcorn is economical. Half a cup of popcorn fills a four quart popper and costs about 30 cents.

The people in Minneapolis/St. Paul are the champion popcorn eaters of the world. They eat four pounds of popcorn per person every year. The national average is two pounds a year per person.

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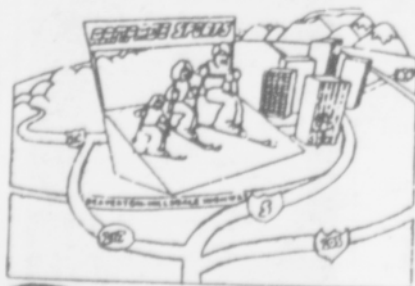
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Micro Mystery

By C.W. Carpenter

It was a cold, crisp autumn day, and school had just let out. Several students were admiring Don's new pen. It wasn't your ordinary ballpoint pen. It was a shiny, obviously expensive, fountain pen.

Just then Mark came up and, seeing the pen, exclaimed, "That's my pen. I left it on my desk when I went to the office, and when I got back it was

gone!"

"It can't be yours," countered Don. "I found this pen yesterday under the fir trees next door to the school. It was partly hidden in the leaves, but I saw it. It's mine!"

After thinking a bit, John spoke up. "Don, you must be mistaken. That pen should be returned to Mark."

Why did John think it was Mark's pen?



John knew that fir trees don't shed leaves. Don must have made up his story. Evergreens and have needles, not leaves in the fall. Fir trees are