



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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HOW DOES YOUR INCOME RATE?

Is your family's income around \$7,140 a year? If so, yours is the average family income in the United States today. There are 58.5 million families and single individuals in this country and we had a total personal income of \$419 billion in 1962. Divide that total by the number of consumer units and you get a "mean" or average income per unit of \$7,140, the highest ever and up 3 per cent in one year. Is your family's income less than \$5,840? If so, you're now in the bottom half of America's families. This has become the "median" or middle income here—meaning half of us earn more, half of us earn less than \$5,840. Is your income around \$4,720? If so, you're in the most crowded group. This is the "model" or most frequent income in this country now.

Are you in the \$10,000-and-up group? If so, you are among 10.9 million families in this income class and you represent 19 of every 100 families. If you are in the \$15,000-and-up group, you have 4 million counterparts, represent seven of every 100 families.

The Department of Commerce has just issued its annual analysis of the size and distribution of family personal incomes, and more than ever before the report on 1962 dramatizes how great a middle-income society we are. While, of course, the success of a nation is judged by many more yardsticks than its financial affluence, there is no reason whatsoever to underestimate our spectacular achievements in this area. Quite the contrary.

The average income figure today pounds home the vital fact that despite the rapid inflation of the early postwar years and the continuing upward creep of prices, the vast majority of families are way ahead. Average real personal income—corrected for price rises—has climbed at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the post-World War II period. Since 1929—decades including depression, global war, inflation—the average rate of growth in real personal income has been 1.6 per cent. Admittedly, the average of \$7,140 (it's probably over \$7,200 by now) is tilted upward by inclusion of families at the top of the income scale, but even so it's a spectacular average.

The figures revealing how many have moved into the \$10,000-\$15,000-and-up classes underline the speed at which we are still upgrading ourselves as a middle-income nation.

In 1947 only 3 per cent of all families and single individuals in this country had incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Now 12 per cent are in this group. In 1947 only 2 per cent had incomes of over \$15,000. Now there are 7 per cent in this higher-income to wealthy category. In 1947 a full 25 per cent had incomes below \$2,000. This has been slashed by more than half to 12 per cent. The upgrading is going on this year too. In 1963 easily a million families will break for the first time into the \$10,000-and-up class.

The entire report emphasizes the extent to which Americans have "discretion" over how they will spend and save. There are 17.6 million families—30 per cent of the total—with incomes of \$8,000 or more. These consumers need not spend every penny for basic essentials of food, shelter and clothing. They have money left over to spend on services and luxuries or to save in nesteggs. The degree of "discretion" we have in spending-savings today is unprecedented.

In the postwar period, all sources of family income have increased—wages, salaries, dividends, rents, earnings from self-employment, interest, retirement incomes. Pensions alone have risen 13-fold since 1947.

Despite pockets of unemployment, despite depressed areas, we are a nation of affluence the like of which the world has never known—which, incidentally, explains why you are reading this column. Only a country whose citizens have enough income to care about what is happening in the world of money and why it is happening would want to read a column devoted to the economics of everyday life.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Eugene V. — He asked me to intervene with his wife. Mrs. K. M. — As far as I'm concerned, he's dead.

Eugene V. — Fifteen years ago, my friend Rod walked out on his job and his family and got a job on a tramp steamer. He'd married at 17 because Kitty was pregnant, and there were two children by the time he was 19. After a year on the loose, Rod joined the Navy. He's had some psychotherapy and holds a responsible job as a laundry routeman.

Mrs. K. M. — My children are grown now and I've told them their father is dead. He must realize that to me, he is. Sending his friend to soften me up is typical of him—coldly and childish. Left alone with my babies, I had a terrible struggle, turning to public welfare first and then working in a restaurant. Rod never even wrote, and now he wants to come home to roost. All I want is a divorce.

The Council — Well, Mrs. M., you can't blame a man for trying — even if it's with Eugene as his mouthpiece. Evidently your prodigal husband was ashamed to confront you, or feared he'd never get past the first hello. . . . Legally, you might easily have obtained a divorce in a state that recognizes desertion as grounds under the "Enoch Arden" statute covering seven years' unexplained absence. Since you didn't avail yourself of that severance, you must now examine your feelings to see whether there's any glimmer of warmth for this man still smouldering. If so, if you can forgive him, if his return into the lives of you and your children can be a revitalizing benefit, let Eugene arrange a meeting. If the embers are stone cold, however, thank Eugene for his effort, but say goodbye and forget your foot-loose mate as you forget a bad dream. Your lawyer can do the rest.

Cuban Exiles Report Guerrilla Fighting

Miami — (UPI) — Cuban exile sources here said this week that more than 800 people were killed in Cuba in recent weeks in a pitched battle between anti-Castro guerrillas and government militiamen. Exile radio commentator Luis Conte Aguiro said reports of the fighting in Matanzas Province reached him in Miami through "freedom sentinels."

They'll Do It Every Time



THIS LITTLE OLD LADY, AUNT PERCALE PEPPERCORN, OWNS ONE SHARE OF MARINATED MARSHMALLOW, AND FAITHFULLY MAILES IN HER VOTING PROXY FOR THE NEXT STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING....

By Jimmy Harlo



BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN—GORDIAN Q. KNOTTIS OWNS 50,000 SHARES OF THE SAME COMPANY (THOUGH HE'S BARELY CONSCIOUS OF IT) AND WHERE'S HIS PROXY? ASK GABOONA, THE CLEANING LADY....

Wait in Style



7178
by Alice Brooks

Vacation Wonder



7237
by Alice Brooks

Malicious Damage Checked at Course

Ashland — Sheriff's deputies are investigating the theft and malicious damage done to a golf cart at Oak Knoll golf course, Saturday night. Someone took the gas-powered cart from next to the building, drove it to Highway 86 and Crowson rd. and left it. They stripped it of seat and canvas canopy, two fiberglass poles with red and white flags and broke a battery in attempting to remove it.

GRACE IN NEW YORK

New York — (UPI) — Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco arrived in New York Monday following a visit with her parents in Philadelphia.

HIGHER PROFITS SEEN

Washington — (UPI) — President Kennedy's chief economic forecaster predicts that higher business profits are likely this year than earlier forecasts. Walter W. Heller, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, said Monday the present outlook suggests a \$5 billion increase in a gross national product of \$578 billion foreseen earlier this year.

Court Records

JUSTICE COURT (Gold Hill District)
David William Gray, truck speeding, \$10.
George William Baker, truck speeding, \$5.
Thomas Melve Davis, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
Donald Gordon Jefferis, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Firmen Lee Patterson, truck speeding, \$10.
Jean Ann Robertson, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Jim Schaap, truck speeding, \$10.
Norman Richard Fecor, no wheel covers, \$5.
Ray Ames Bert Jr., truck speeding, \$10.
Robert Max Gentry, truck speeding, \$10.
William Stewart Orr Jr., violation of basic rule, \$10.
Samuel Andrew Groves, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
Richard Walter Hansen, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
James Thomas Million, no operator's license, \$5.
Glenn Glikley Gray, disobeyed stop sign, \$15.
Lesley Allen Woods, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Richard Walt Colson, violation of basic rule, \$15.

DISTRICT COURT

Marvin Albert Green, disobeyed stop sign, \$15.
P. Edward Ragnone, improper lane use, \$15.
Melvin James Thompson, switched license plates, \$15.
James Burton Craven, failure to stop, \$25.
Harold Lee LaGrave, failure to operate right side of highway, \$15.
Charley Hummel, failure to yield right of way, \$15.
Carl Louis Zehna, failure to stop, \$5.
Wilbur Jean Boatwright, no operator's license, \$5.
Howard Woodrow Adair, no public utility commissioner permit, \$15.
Woodrow Jackson Cullop, 4074 South Pacific highway, Medford, reckless driving, \$150.
Terry Duane Green, 1339 Siskiyou blvd., Medford, drunk on public highway, \$50.
Tex Bewley, 2731 Crater Lake ave., Medford, drunk on public highway, \$50.

Texas Man Arrested By Mistake in Area

Clifford Edward McCollum, 23, of route 1, box 141, Rogue River, said today he was arrested by mistake by Jackson county sheriff's officers on an Angleton, Tex., fugitive warrant last week.

He was charged with burglary and ball jumping and lodged in the county jail. The resultant publicity has made it difficult to get a job, he said.

McCollum said he saw the Texas burglary occurring, but did not report it. He understood he was wanted for questioning regarding the burglary. Saturday he was released and told to go home, McCollum said.

The sheriff's office said yesterday that they received a telegram from Brazoria county, Tex., authorities later stating they were not able to proceed with extradition because of the expense involved. The case was not dismissed by Texas authorities, the telegram advised, and McCollum will be detained if found in Texas.

Populaires To Give Concert at Assembly

Ashland — The Populaires, a vocal ensemble at Southern Oregon college, will present a number of vocal selections at a 10 a.m. assembly Wednesday, May 15, in Churchill auditorium. Richard Schall, director of the group, has announced.

The program will be similar to the one they toured southern Oregon with and will consist of musical comedy and popular songs. The Populaires was one of the groups featured during the Fine Arts Festival last week.

Townpeople are invited to attend the assembly without charge.

LEAVES HOSPITAL

Santa Monica, Calif. — (UPI) — Actor Marlon Brando was recuperating at home today from an apparent virus attack. Brando Monday left St. John's hospital where he was taken last Friday when he was suddenly taken ill on the movie set of "King of the Mountain."

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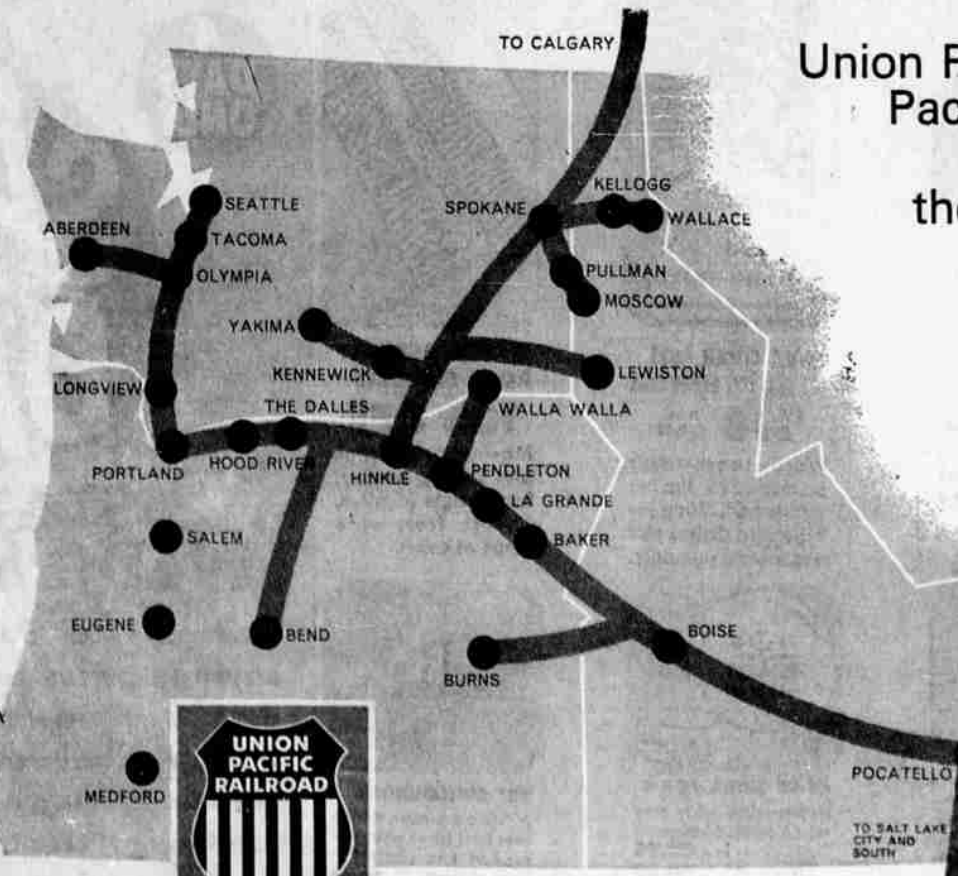
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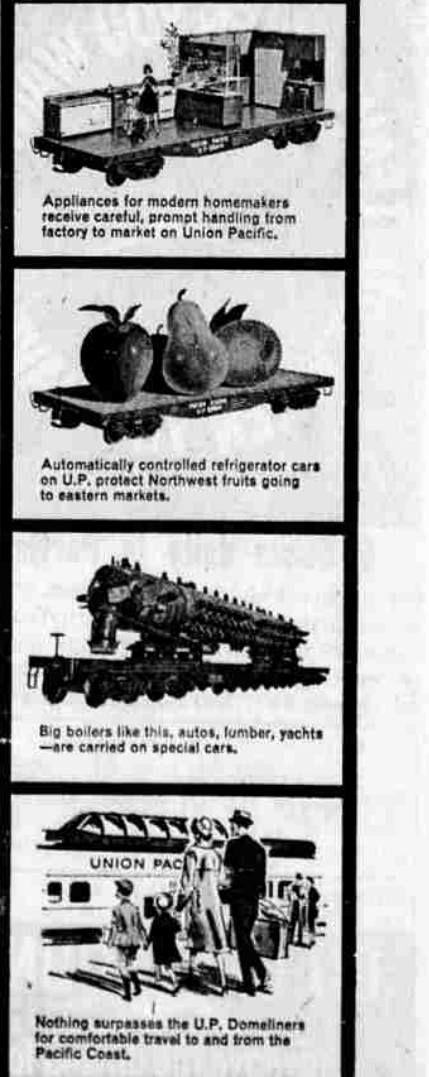
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