

Study Of Price Trends In US Over Past 100 Years Shows Present Picture OK

By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK, July 20 (AP) — If you are confused today about price trends—some going up while others come down—and long for the good old days when they were always steady, you may be surprised to learn:

1. Wholesale commodity prices have rarely been stable for more than a few months at a time, in the last 150 years.
2. So far prices this time have fallen neither as jerkily nor as far as they have after our other wars.
3. Some products important now in the cost of living played little or no part after previous wars, while some old star performers are now retired from the scene.

Many believe that the props which have been placed under prices in recent years will prevent any such collapse as followed each previous war.

However, if wholesale prices continue along the same path they took after the first world war, they

are due to go still lower, on the whole, before starting up again generally.

Of course, some prices have advanced already. Copper and lead in recent days have regained a fraction of earlier losses, and metal circles expect also to follow suit soon. Textile prices are a little higher in isolated cases. Wholesale food and livestock prices are stronger now than they were a couple of months ago.

The course of wholesale prices in America can be traced in the department of labor's wholesale price index, which economists have stretched back to 1899 by using historical data.

Retail prices show up in the department's consumers' price index for moderate-income families in large cities, which slide-rule experts have been able to push back to 1890. Traditionally, retail prices have been much less erratic than wholesale prices, according to a study of the two indexes to be published by the national industrial conference board.

During the first world war prices doubled, only to break in 1920 for perhaps the sharpest decline in our history. They settled finally at about two fifths higher than the 1914 price level. They were low again in the '30's but started up when war broke out in Europe. During this war, however, commodity indexes were based on controlled prices, ignoring the much higher black market prices, and perhaps clouding the true price picture.

Our changing ways show up in these indexes. Prior to the gay nineties the miscellaneous group in the wholesale commodity index made up about 1 per cent of the total in weight and importance. Now it is 10 per cent. The main reason is a new comer, tires, and the greater importance of paper products.

House furnishings and housing were the hardest hit of any group in the 1930's—fewer young couples scraped up enough money to get married.

Most important groups of all in the indexes are still farm products and foods, but they have lost ground over the years relative to the other commodities. And building materials have lost almost half their former value in the index. Fuel and lighting, and the miscellaneous group are much more important today—as standards of living change and yesterday's luxury becomes today's necessity.

Reds Using Children For Propaganda

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) School children in the Soviet zone are being used to spread communist propaganda. British military government reported. Letters and drawings made by members of a Soviet zone youth movement have been sent to the British zone in an unusual way.

Police at Lauenburg, on the British-Soviet border, found two metal canisters in the River Elbe. The children's letters and drawings were inside the canisters. They were addressed to children in the British zone.

West German newspapers have also reported that children in the zone have received letters from children in the Soviet zone. The west newspapers commented that the jargon used showed that the letters were obviously dictated to the children in class by communist-minded teachers.

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CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



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Park Day Camp Gains Headway After 2 Weeks; GS, CFG Share In Work

The day camp at Moore park has been in full swing for two weeks now, and it is continuing to gain momentum. The camp is sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls with some aid from the city recreation department.

Day camp is divided into a session for each group. The Camp Fire Girls are in charge of the present three-week session. The Scouts will resume control for the two-week period following it.

However, girls between the ages of 7 and 14 who wish to participate do not have to be a member of either group, for any young lady in the county is welcome to register for either part or the entire session.

Although the camp is run under separate administration for the two periods, both groups have been working together and have planned similar activities.

Camp is set up as much as possible in units in which the girls plan their own activities and cook out.

Buses have been chartered which take the youngsters to and from town. The bus leaves at 9 o'clock from Roosevelt school; 9:10, Mills school; 9:20, courthouse, and then follows the Oregon avenue route on the way to the park. Return trip is made at 2:30.

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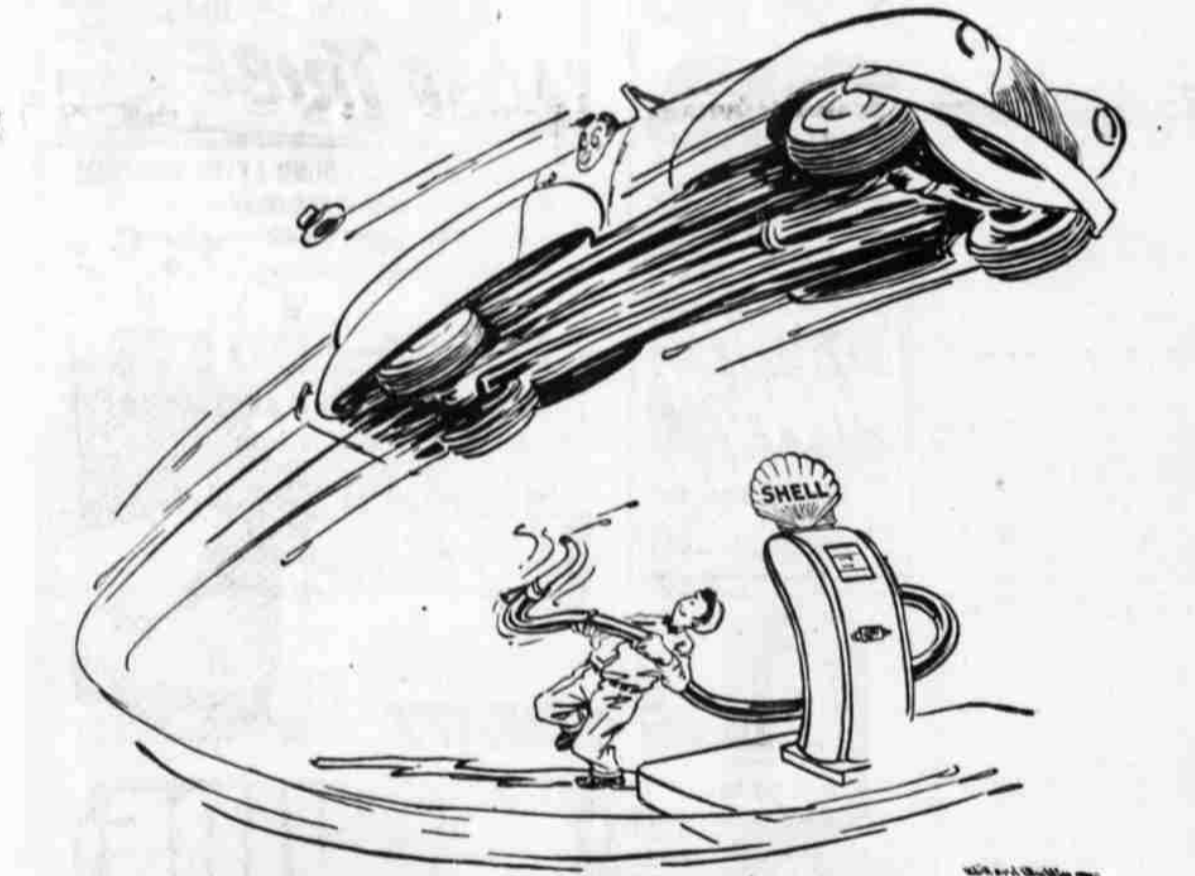
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