

Prices from the Past

College Was Affordable

FROM 1936 to 1940, I studied at Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, where quarterly full-time tuition was \$10.

I earned my basement room by taking care of the house and yard for Clara J. Allison, a Latin professor. The charge for a full meal at noon and again at night at the student union, McKenny Hall, was 30¢ each. If you wanted milk, it was a nickel more a bottle.

In my senior year, I was named business manager at the college annual, the Aurora, and was paid \$25 for 9 months, which took care of my expenses.

—Albert Riddering, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Worth a Week's Wages

WHEN I MARRIED, in 1940, my wedding dress cost \$17 from J.C. Penney. The little net headband I wore was \$2.

After all these years, the satin dress fabric is still strong, although the blue color is a bit faded.

Today, brides pay thousands of dollars yet, as a working girl in the 1940s, I paid a week's wages—\$17—for my dress.

—Bettie Ries, Sonora, California

Restaurant Dishes Were Tempting

AN AD for the Club Nino restaurant in Jefferson Valley, New York appeared in the 1959 Lakeland High School yearbook.

Sadly, the Club Nino is no longer around, nor are the \$3.75 whole Maine lobsters!

The restaurant also served pizza. There are certain “firsts” that you always remember, and one of mine occurred on March 19, 1959, when our family went to Club Nino for our father’s 50th birthday.

Like most kids, I’d never try anything new. My sister, 3 years older and wiser, had ordered a pizza and I saw how much she was enjoying it and getting it all over herself.

I decided I couldn’t let her have all the fun, so I ordered a pizza, too, and I’ve loved them ever since.

—Ken Herst, Springfield, Virginia