

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Vol. 22 – No. 6

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June, 2022

With the high inflation we are currently experiencing, I thought this article from 1911 might be appropriate. The high cost of living is nothing new.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING
(from the 10-11-1911 issue of The Nevada County Picayune)

This is a lovely world, full of bumper crops and palatial homes, of soft-voiced touring cars and luxurious trains, of good things to eat and absorbing books to read, and jobs which get fatter every year. The world has never been a closer imitation of Paradise, and we would all be happy and content, if it were not for the high cost of living high.

Wages are going up all the time, but so are the prices. For a nice exciting little aviation meet, there is nothing that can equal the monthly altitude contest between the pay check and the price of necessary luxuries. There was once a time when a man could live well on \$1.50 a day, and could take off his worries with his socks at night. But how can you live on \$1.50 a day now, when the theater trust has raised the price of tickets to \$2 a night, and there are ten times as many theaters to be supported?

There was once a time when \$60 a month was a young fortune, and a large family, including a future senator, could be brought up on it. Nowadays, it costs \$60 a month to put one son through college, and about the most you can expect from him is three or four golf clubs or, if you are lucky, a permanent daughter-in-law.

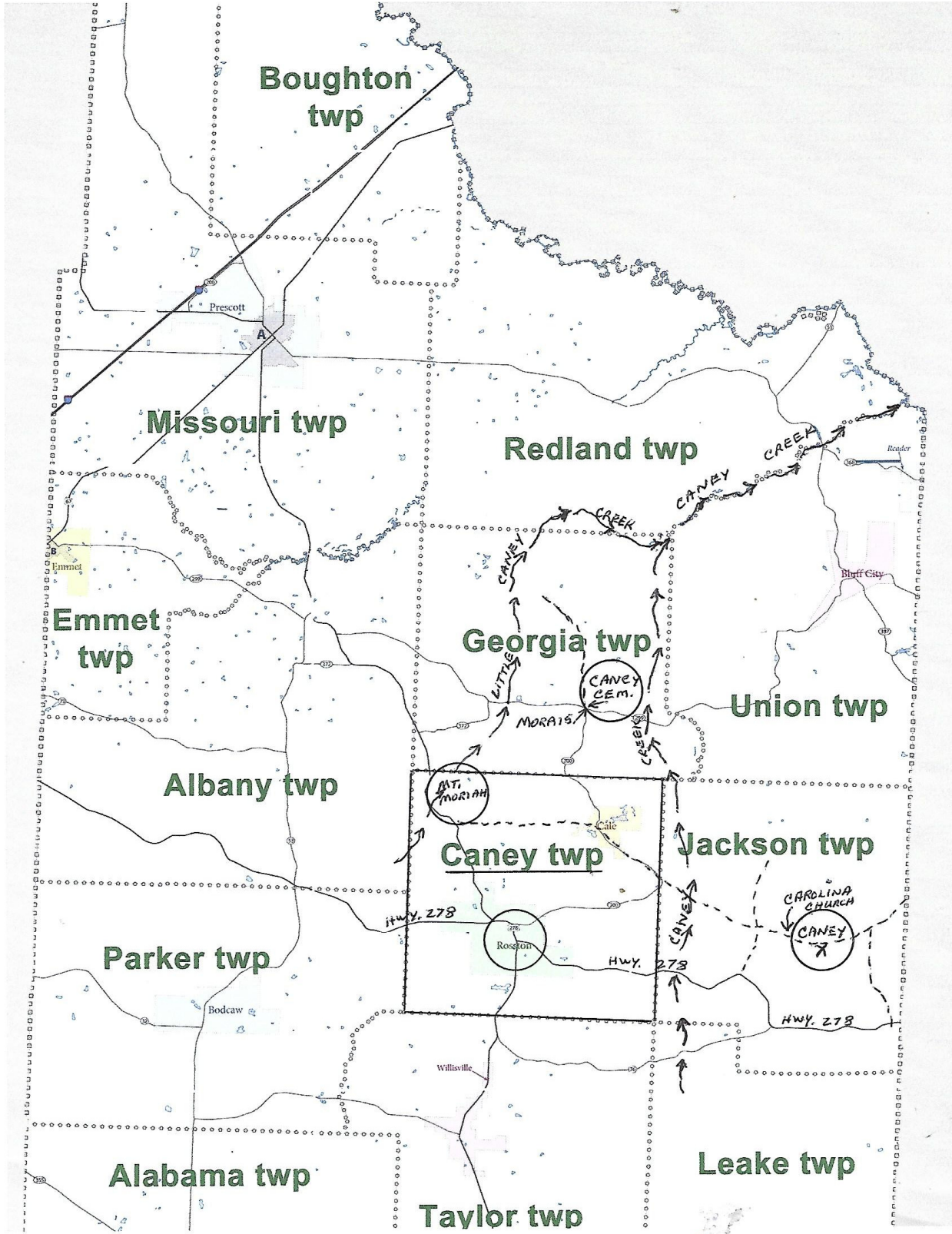
There was a time when \$90 a month put you in the village smart set, and you could give a party now and then with ice cream. But what does \$90 a month buy you now? Two automobile tires, and you have to get credit for the third which blew up on the 29th.

There was a time when \$150 a month would buy a nice house with stable in the back and you could have two kinds of cake for dessert and go to Chicago to grand opera once a year. Now \$150 a month will just about pay for three weeks at a seashore hotel, and if you don't go, your next-door neighbor will come in every evening during the winter and tell you how nice it was on the beach.

There was a time when \$5000 a year made a man so rich, he could be kind to the poor and could give \$150 a year to the church, and could be universally beloved because he wore old clothes like the plain people. What does \$5000 get you now? Just half as much as your friend's \$10,000 gets him, and he uses the extra \$5000 making you look like a misplaced Hubbard squash.

The high cost of living high is causing untold misery in this nation, and something ought to be done in the way of providing the suffering prosperous with parachutes. – George Fitch

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CANEY CONFUSION

When somebody mentions the word “Caney” in Nevada County, it can be quite confusing. Check out the map on the previous page. This map shows the political townships in Nevada County. These are not used much anymore, but at one time, they were used for local government purposes. Knowing where they are is helpful for someone doing genealogy research because it can narrow down where your ancestors once lived.

Near the center of the map is Caney Township, a six-square mile area which includes the towns of Rosston and Cale and the old community of Mt. Moriah.

To the right of Caney Township, I have noted the location of an old community called Caney which dates back to about 1850. It was located in Jackson Township on the Camden to Washington road. The application for the Caney post office states that it would serve 100 families. The post office was later known as Marsh’s Store with William Marsh as postmaster. Not far from Caney was Carolina church, a very old landmark which still stands and an old cemetery called White Church Cemetery. The road I dotted in on the map is no longer passable due to a beaver pond between Carolina church and the old location of Caney.

If you look north of Caney Township on the map, you will find Morris which is in Georgia Township. The local folks call this place Caney and the cemetery next to the Morris Baptist Church is called Caney Cemetery. The school located there in the 1920s was known as the Caney School and the church was known as Caney church back in the late 1800s.

Now we come to the creeks. I have drawn in Caney Creek (sometimes known as Big Caney Creek) and Little Caney Creek. These creeks flow north and empty into the Little Missouri River. Morris probably came to be known as Caney because it is situated between Big Caney Creek and Little Caney Creek. The Baptist church at Morris was called Caney Church in old newspapers. There was once a Caney Nazarene Church located across the highway from the cemetery. A large saw mill was located where Hwy. 299 crosses Caney Creek that was known as Dill’s Mill. For a time, it was called Caney Creek Lumber Co.

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So, you can see that the word “Caney” can refer to many things in Nevada County. When one mentions Caney today, we automatically think of Morris which the local folks call Caney, but if you research old newspapers or documents from the 1800s, you might find some tidbit about Caney and mistakenly think of Morris. The old community of Caney in Jackson Township had local news columns in the county newspaper back in the late 1800s. Some news columns had the name Caney-Carolina to cover both communities. Some of the family names mentioned include Mendenhall, Marsh, Young, Battle, Blakely, and Hatley

TELEVISION

I don't remember the exact year we got our first television set. I think it was sometime around 1953. I was a young teenager in 1956 when we moved into our new house and I remember us having a TV in the old house. I know I was very excited to have a TV in our home. It opened up a world of entertainment to both young and old alike.

Some of the grown-ups frowned on TVs when they first came out. They worried about the kids getting too close to the TV set in case it gave off some sort of radiation that could be harmful. They worried about our eyesight being harmed by watching too much TV. It takes time for some people to accept a new invention.

Of course, TV sets in those days only showed shows in black and white. The knob on the TV had 13 channels, but we could only receive two or three channels clearly. It all depended on how the outside antenna was turned. We often had someone go outside and turn the antenna while someone inside let them know when the set received the best signal. And, those early TV sets had no remote control. We had to get up out of the chair and turn the knob on the TV to change channels or adjust the volume. Those early TVs frequently had a problem with the picture rolling and we had to adjust the vertical hold to try to keep the picture still. The TV went off the air about midnight and came back on about 6 a.m. The national anthem was usually played just before the station signed off for the night.

I Love Lucy was a popular TV show at that time, but western shows were also very popular. I remember a quiz show called “The \$64,000 Question” that was very popular and the Wonderful World of Disney was popular with the kids. Their programs were divided up in four categories called Adventureland, Tomorrowland, Frontierland, and Fantasyland. I always liked Frontierland featuring Fess Parker playing Davy Crockett. The show featured a little tune at the beginning of the show with the line “Davy, Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier”. Some of the young boys even went out and bought coonskin caps to wear. The Mickey Mouse Club was also popular with the kids and most

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teenage boys in America had a crush on Annette. I remember the Winky Dink show which was unusual because you could send off and get a magic screen (piece of plastic) to put over the TV screen and special crayons to use to draw on the screen following the instructions given on the show. Cartoon shows were also popular with the kids and the ladies became addicted to soap operas that aired during the daytime.

TVs in those days were not nearly as dependable as those we have today. Those early TVs were tube-type sets and when a tube burned out, we were out of business. We had to load up our TV set and take it to Mr. Watson Roll in Chidester who had a repair shop in his house. It would sometimes be a week or so before we got it back and we really missed it while it was gone.

After a few years, color TV sets came out and they were very expensive at first. I was surprised one day when my dad made the decision to purchase a color TV with a remote control. It was a big investment for us, and he decided to pay a little extra and get a better-quality TV. He chose to get a Curtis-Mathis set. That company advertised that their set was “the most expensive television in America, but it is darn well worth it”. We actually had companies in America that manufactured TV sets in those days with names such as Zenith, RCA, Sylvania, General Electric, and Motorola. Today, all television sets and most other electronics are made in other countries.

I suspect the older generation was just as excited when the family got a radio and could sit around it and listen to the radio shows being broadcast, but being able to see the picture changed the way we entertained ourselves. If I had a dollar for every hour I have watched TV in my lifetime I would be rich. I think television is probably one of the inventions that has had the greatest impact on the lives on Americans. One could argue whether it has had a positive or negative influence on our lives.

Television sets have changed a lot since those days in the 1950s. They don't weigh as much as the old sets and now we can even hang them on the wall like a picture. The screens have gotten larger and the sound is better so it's almost like being in a movie theater. We have a choice of hundreds of channels from which to choose and the shows are on 24 hours a day. Even with all these improvements, I find myself watching many of the old black and white shows that are still being broadcast. One of the good things about the old days is that the shows were free. Now, we have to subscribe to a service to bring these shows into our homes and the prices keep rising.

We have seen many new gadgets and inventions since the television first made its appearance. Most people like to keep up with the times, so they join the crowd and buy these new inventions, especially electronic gadgets. Remember the CB radio craze in the 1970s when most of us purchased a CB radio for our vehicles and came up with a unique “handle” so we could talk to other drivers on the road? The Internet came along in the 1980s and soon most homes had a computer. We could communicate with people all over the world by email and if we had a question about something, we could “google” it and usually find the answer. The old sets of encyclopedias our parents had purchased

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were no longer needed. There has been a revolution in telephones in recent years. Most people now have a cell phone to take with them wherever they go and the phones keep getting “smarter” all the time. Who knows what might be the next electronic invention to come along? I suspect it won't be long until robots are available to do most of the labor and household chores. Things are changing too fast for some of us older folks who still remember black and white television sets with no remote controls and party line telephones.

RAINFALL RECORD

Rainfall received in March – 6.9 inches

Rainfall received in April – 5.5 inches

Total received January through April – 19.8 inches

NECROLOGY

Burials at Bluff City Cemetery –January through April

Billy Joe Meador – Jan. 13

Larnell Clinton Robinson – Feb. 17

Linda Broome – Mar. 12

Warren Wriugh Broome – Mar. 21

Arena Hayden – Mar. 24

Waldeen Smith Oliver Beard – Apr. 21

Mary J. Robertson Loe – Apr. 27

Juanita Butler Benson – Apr. 28

WORDS SELDOM USED

The word for this month is FORTNIGHT. It means a period of 14 days.

Examples from the Prescott Daily News:

Mrs. Agnes Hylton left Friday for Little Rock where she will spend a fortnight with friends (July, 1918)

Capt. John Parker, who has been quite sick the past fortnight, is now improving (Bodcaw local news – June, 1907)

In the early 1900s, Prescott had a women's club called the Fortnightly Club. I assume from the name that it met every two weeks.

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National Oklahoma Day on June 7th recognizes the 46th state to join the union. Take a tour of Oklahoma's history and culture with this poem:

Oklahoma Bound – By Don Mathis

Dinosaurs once walked here in all their glory.
Eons later, it was Indian Territory.
It became a state in 1907 and here is the story.

The Trail of Tears brought the first great migration.
Oklahoma welcomed five Indian nations.
And so began a new civilization.

The Chisholm Trails brought horses and cows.
People drove cattle for miles and miles.
Some folks stayed and built a log house.

It's always been a crossroads of history and time.
Gold Rushers came through in 1849.
Bonnie and Clyde stopped by in their life of crime.

There was a new idea in the 19th century.
A Land Rush could bring settlers, fast and easy.
Some came "Sooner," and the name came to be.

Oklahoma is known for coal and peaches.
But it was oil that brought more people and riches.
And statehood was granted to the mid-western reaches.

Tornadoes and floods occur here frequently.
But the 20th century had a new calamity.
Depression and Dust Bowl affected too many.

New industry brought an end to this situation.
Road building helped, as did aviation.
And Baby Boomers heralded a new generation.

Men of Letters and Words are remembered yet.
Sequoyah invented a whole alphabet.
And Will Rogers liked every man he met.

Some don't know Route 66 was an OK idea.
And the nation's first expressway was constructed here.
While the Inland Waterway runs deep and clear.

Singers? Woody Guthrie, with his guitar in hand,

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made us proud with "This Land is Your Land."
Then there's Reba, Vince Gill, and Garth Brooks' band.

Oklahoma is young as young states go.
What happens tomorrow? We don't know.
But one thing is certain; it's bound to grow!

SOME PRESCOTT BUSINESSMEN IN 1900

The Parker Hotel was established in 1890 under the management of **Capt. Sidney Parker** and wife. After his death in 1892, the house continued under Mrs. Parker's control until she married Judge Ellis. Since then, they have continued a successful business. The house contains about 30 rooms, elegantly furnished with modern conveniences, water and electric lights with bath rooms and 3 large sample rooms. Mrs. Ellis has done much to make her house a real home for her many guests.

Nichols Brothers, J. T. and I. D. Nichols, were born on the farm in this county. After successful farm life, they harnessed their financial forces and came to Prescott two years ago. Since that time, they have passed forces through our recent fires and yet command a full stock of general merchandise with special attention paid to dry goods and shoes. This gives to the world another expression of the possibilities of Nevada County farm life.

Scott Brothers Meat Market is run by **H. V. Scott and Hunter Scott** who are natives of our community and sons of S. A. Scott. They are nice accommodating gentlemen and carry a full line of the best meat our county affords. Their business was opened up last January and at present they have the only market in our city.

I. E. McMillion who has figured largely in business circles in our town for 18 years, is a native of Alabama. For 15 years he made Wolf Brothers one of the most active salesmen they had on the road. For 4 years past he has been in active business in our town. At present he is on the road again, and no doubt about Ira selling his goods. He wins confidence and trade wherever he goes.

W. A. McMillion carries a good line of general merchandise. His life has been spent among the people of this community and his friends are bound by his acquaintances. His life is spotless, his dealings honorable and honest. **Miss Ada Cantley**, who is found behind his counters, is one of Prescott's purest and best daughters, and wins for Mr. McMillion many worthy customers.

J. H. Krenshaw is one of our leading grocery men. For years he has been counted with our town and has carried a full line of groceries and confectioneries. He is of English blood and his polite and enterprising ways have won for him many true and tried friends.

A. J. Lavender is among our best citizens. He carries a full line of general merchandise on West Main St. He is a thoroughbred Arkansan and is now 51 years of age. He has spent his life in this community and enjoys the full confidence of our people.