THE LAST WORD

The West Newton (Pennsylvania) TIMES-SUN celebrated their 93rd birthday last Oct. 5 with a verse they credit to Jean Lair, the bard of Renfro Valley, Kentucky." With a tip of the hat to the TIMES-SUN, and cudos to poet John Lair, we pass on the message which, it seems to us, applies to just about every grass-roots, hometown newspaper:

"We never realize how much the hometown paper means. Till we have wandered far from the old familiar scenes; And then it's just as welcome as a letter from a friend. We read it through from front to back, from end to end; And when we see the names in print of folks we used to know; A flood of tender memories set our hearts aglow.

"We remember how that paper was a standby in our home, and how we'd scramble for it just as soon as it would come.

"Sis looked for all the "personals" (and grandma too!) Grandad liked the editorials — if they sided with his view; But mother never seemed to have a part that she preferred; one just sat down, when she had time, and read it every word!"

Poet Lair comes pretty close to capturing the reason why the hometown, grass-roots newspapers in America are still the highest on the list of most-read media today. Books are fine; but it is not very often that one will pick up a book before he reads his newspaper. First things first! Magazines? They, too, are usually read after the paper is finished. And the big city newspapers? Many of them are so large today that not even the editors and publishers get to read everything in the paper, except maybe the headlines.

Nope: If there is anything at all that gets read, "word for word" and in our busy world, it's the hometown newspaper. And that's why grass-roots editors, in spite of the wear and tear of perpetual deadlines, wouldn't think of doing anything else.

MERCURY VAPOURS

by Warren R. Fisher

The Carlisle Mercury publishes letters to Santa Claus so that children might enjoy writing to him at this one of the happiest times of their lives. The Mercury started publishing Santa letters as far back as the late 1870's — and, of course, Santa Claus is much, much older than that!

However, this year we received letters forged with adult names, and, thank goodness, obviously not written with their permission. We won't venture to say that an adult wrote them, but we will say that the person or persons were old enough to know better. Had we unknowingly published the letters, the persons whose names were signed would probably have been very upset. And, we doubt that Santa Claus would have been very happy either.

The Mercury staff asks that in future years, only children under the age of 12 submit letters to Santa Claus; that others refrain from attempting to make a mockery of Santa Letters; and that all maintain the spirit of Santa Claus for children as long as it can last for them.

We can only hope after over 100 years of printing Santa Letters that The Carlisle Mercury will not now be forced to stop doing so.

—MV—

"Twas some time ago that the National Review Magazine published "The New Economics" by Mr. P.C. Beezeley. But now that Congress is about to gouge us taxpayers again, Beezeley's funny (?) lines bear repeating:

THE NEW ECONOMICS
by P.C. Beezeley

Let's get everyone on the government payroll.
What's that? Did someone say it wouldn't work? Why not?
There wouldn't be anyone left to pay taxes?
Well — let the government pay the taxes.
What's that? The government wouldn't have any money if nobody paid taxes?
Well, let the government borrow the money to pay the taxes. Nothing to worry about! Remember, we owe it to ourselves.

DOWN MEMORY LANE—

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, Jan. 1, 1953

Vernon Wagoner, averaging $68.57, and Turner Shannon, with an average of $61.49, won first and second honors at the third annual FFA District Tobacco Show held recently in Cynthiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Darrell of the Maysville Road were awarded first prize of $10 for the best outside Christmas decorations, sponsored by the Carlisle Nicholas County Development Association. Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Buntin Jr. won second prize of $5.

J.M. Alverson Sr., 79 veteran newspaperman and editor and publisher of the Paris Daily Enterprise, died Friday night in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Darrell left Monday for Mt. Dora, Fla., to spend the remainder of the winter.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Wilson, Wichita, Kan., a son, last week.

MARRIED—Miss Betty Auxier, Cynthiana, and Lexington, to Robert J. Bullock, Lexington, Friday in Lexington.

DIED—James Walter Myers, 74, Sunday.—Paul Herndon, 54, at his home in Meridian, Miss. Dec. 21.—Mrs. Janie Crouch Clinkenbeard, 80, in Elsmere. —Sam-D. George, 37, Saturday in Paris.—Mrs. Rachel Vaughn McClanahan, 87, Monday.—William Henry Grannis, 46, Ewing, Tuesday.

Thursday, December 29, 1932

Following officers for Dougherty Lodge No. 65 F&AM, elected Tuesday: H.C. Galbraith, W.M.; George D. Scott, S.W.; Grimes Caywood, J.W.; W.T. Norton, treasurer; H.K. Veach, secretary; C.E. Cooper, S.D. ; Frank C. Henry, J.D.; H.H. Crouch and Robert Smathers, stewards; John M. Brown, tyler; and Dr. G.T. Cowan, chaplain.

Thieves stole 13 turkeys from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Smith near Headquarters last Wednesday night.

The Carlisle tobacco market topped the state last Thursday when a total of 201,890 pounds sold for an average of $16.78 per hundred pounds.

Fire believed to have been caused by a lighted cigarette or match being thrown into a trash basket caused several hundred dollars worth of damage to the pool room of H.T. Burgess on East Main Street about 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

Miss Hugo Shilling of California, who has been a guest of her niece, Miss Anna Howe for several weeks fell down a flight of stairs Friday and is confined to her bed.

The cupola on top of the courthouse is being taken down. This cupola which has been atop the courthouse for 29 years, was recently struck by lightning.

Miss Lula Botts of Carlisle was awarded second prize of $10 in the annual jingle contest of the Lexington Herald. Miss Mae Wells and Mrs. J.H. Tilton were given honorable mention.

While all the members of the family of J.H. Tilton were away from home Saturday afternoon a thief entered the home, ransacked all rooms and made away with several articles of wearing apparel.

From indication Wednesday there will be fewer marriage licenses issued here this year than at any time for several years. Up until noon Wednesday only 46 licenses had been issued here.

The celebration of Christmas here Saturday night was unusually noisy.

Sunday was probably one of the warmest Christmas Days on record. The temperature was around 70.

The automobile belonging to T.D. Campbell was badly damaged Saturday afternoon when Mr. Campbell lost control of the car while driving on the Concord Road and wrecked.

H.T. Burgess, whose pool room burned recently, and A.R. Shrout who has been conducting a pool room in the M.T. Ruddell building, have formed a partnership.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Elvie Green of near Barterville, a son, on Dec. 25.—To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ritchie of near Barefoot, a son, on Dec. 22.—To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Turner of Lexington, a daughter, Wednesday.

MARRIED—Miss Nellie D. Ritchie and Homer P. Fryman, both of the county in Carlisle, Tuesday.—Miss Pauline Vice and James Tapp, both of the county, in Carlisle, Saturday night.

DIED—Mason Hamilton, 74, Saturday morning at the Johnson Memorial Hospital.—Walter Alexander, 55, Saturday afternoon at his home in the Stony Creek section.

Subscription Rates: One year in Nicholas and adjoining counties, namely, Bath, Bourbon, Harrison, Robertson, Fleming and Montgomery, $4.50, elsewhere in Kentucky, $4.73, sales taxes included; Out-of-State, one year, $6.00.

MEMBER:
The Kentucky Press Association, Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION — Trade, Inc. — Free Press a Day — NNA SUSTAINING MEMBER — 1972

Published every Thursday at 232 N. Locust Street, Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40311.

Warren R. Fisher, Publisher; (Mrs.) Katherine T. Fisher, Managing Editor; Mrs. Joseph H. Conley, Editor.

FARM & HOME

County Extension Agents
Kalil J. Noffsinger,
Sara Swango, Mrs. Margie Wilson

NEW YEAR'S INVENTORY

"Why don't we get into the habit of taking inventories of our blessings regularly?

"Take a look at yourself. What have you got? We don't mean property or belongings. Those as often as not are problems. But look at yourself.

"Have you got two fairly good feet and legs? If you don't think those are blessings, try getting around with one or none. Get on crutches, for example, and try to traverse the ground you normally cover in a day. You'll stop taking your lower limbs for granted.

"Have you got two good hands that open and close? If you think those aren't blessings, try getting dressed or fixing breakfast or stoking up your old Missouri Meerschaum with one of them tied behind your back.

"Have you got a few good teeth in your head? Even if you only have two, well juxtaposed, you're comparatively well off. And how about those eyes and ears and nostrils and taste buds that open you out into the marvels and beauties of the world around you, and without which you'd be as solitary and pleasureless as a chick in an unhatched egg? Do you ever thank your Maker for those?

"And then, above all, how about that infinite expanse of spirit that is, truly, you? It is your you-ness, and it can appreciate every experience from the slightest tickle or caress up to the immense rapture of accepting your God. That spirit of yours is without limits, outward or inward, if you wish it to be.

"Most people's lives are disgustingly, depressingly small. Their miseries are overvalued and considered too much; their blessings are all but ignored.

"Within your unprepossessing hide, you're a treasurehouse of God-given blessings. But you never know it unless you take an inventory"—from "The Scrap Book".

WHY 4-H LEADERSHIP?

"Why is it that you can give leadership in 4-H today and why are you able to maintain that extra leadership needed in the future.

"First of all, it is because you live in America. A land of plenty—food, clothing, homes, cars, and the thousands of items available to make our lives easier and more enjoyable. Therefore, more free time is available for volunteer work. But we Americans are funny. You know, the modern American drinks coffee from Brazil in an English cup while sitting on Danish furniture after coming home from an Italian movie in his German car. Then he picks up a Japanese ballpoint pen to write his Congressman demanding that something be done about all the gold that is leaving the country.

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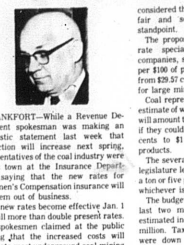
"Well, times have changed, and they are continuing to change. You remember the day of the "square". It's another of the good ole words that has gone the way of love, modesty, and patriotism. Something to be snickered over, or outright laughed at. Why, it used to be that there was no higher compliment you could pay a person than to call him a square shooter. The ad man's promise of a "square deal" once was as binding as an oath on the Bible. But today, a square is a guy who volunteers when he doesn't have to. He's a guy who gets his kicks from trying to do a job better than anyone else. He's a guy who gets so lost in his work he has to be reminded to go home. He hasn't learned to cut corners or to goof off. This nut we call "the square" gets all choked up when he hears children singing "My Country Tis of Thee." He believes in God, and says so in public. A square is likely to save some of his own money for a rainy day, rather than count on using yours. A square is a guy who reads scripture when nobody's watching, and prays when nobody's listening; a guy who thinks Christmas trees should be green, Christmas gifts should be handpicked. He wants to see America first in everything.

"We as 4-H leaders and as Americans, have many freedoms that permit us to build foundations for the future so we may live, play, and serve in the extra leadership roles needed today. Many countries of the world are not so blessed with the freedoms we take for granted, yet they allow us to do so. Why not a second mile in leadership."—Ideas expressed by Lloyd Westbrook, State 4-H Leader, Arkansas.

AGREE or NOT

I Say What I Think

by S. C. VanCuron



FRANKFORT—While a Revenue Department spokesman was making an optimistic statement last week that production will increase next spring, representatives of the coal industry were across town at the Insurance Department saying that the new rates for Workmen's Compensation insurance will put them out of business.

The new rates become effective Jan. 1 and will more than double present rates. Coal spokesmen claimed at the public hearing that the increased costs will eliminate most underground coal mining in the state.

Kentucky's new law is the most stringent and most expensive of any state in the union.

Black lung benefits are extended for a lifetime under the new law instead of 452 weeks under present law.

The coal representatives were protesting that they could not compete with other states and called the hike in insurance rates the final blow on top of the 30 cents a ton severance tax and the federal mine safety laws to underground mining.

William F. O'Halloran, chief actuary for the Insurance Department, said he considered the proposed new rates to be fair and sound from an actuarial standpoint.

The proposed new rates, figured by rate specialists for the insurance companies, starts with a base of $67.67 per $100 of payroll for small mines, up from $29.57 currently, and $48.88 per $100 for large mines, up from $20.08.

Coal representatives didn't make any estimate of what the increased insurance will amount to per ton, but they wondered if they could ask their buyers to pay 50 cents to $1 more per ton for their products.

The severance tax passed by the 1972 legislature levies a minimum of 30 cents a ton or five per cent of the selling price, whichever is greater.

The budget for this fiscal year and the last two months of last fiscal year estimated income from the tax to be $42 million. Tax collections in November hearing that the increased costs will eliminate most underground coal mining in the state.

But Charles Williamson, in charge of collecting the severance tax for the Revenue Department, said "there is hope production will increase next spring and meet the amount budgeted."

For the first five months of this fiscal year, July through November, the total taxes collected was $13,993,712, and for May and June of last fiscal year it was $6,766,107 for a total for the seven months of $20,759,819. If the next seven months produces at the same rate, the budget estimate of $42 million will be reached.

But September's collection of $3,444,436

continued on page 5

a bountiful New Year

The year's taking its first run —
hope it holds health, wealth, happiness.

Bill Dollins, Sheriff
Reese Smoot, Deputy Sheriff

FOR WEEK AHEAD—DAY-BY-DAY HOROSCOPE

Locate your birthdate, note your symbol, then read your message below.

ARIES	TAURUS	GEMINI	CANCER	LEO	VIRGO
MAR. 21 APRIL 19	APRIL 20 MAY 20	MAY 21 JUNE 20	JUNE 21 JULY 22	JULY 23 AUG. 22	AUG. 23 SEPT. 22
LIBRA	SCORPIO	SAGITTARIUS	CAPRICORN	AQUARIUS	PISCES
SEPT. 23 OCT. 22	OCT. 23 NOV. 21	NOV. 22 DEC. 21	DEC. 22 JAN. 19	JAN. 20 FEB. 18	FEB. 19 MAR. 20

FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1972

ARIES Be patient with a chronic fault-finder.
TAURUS Satisfy those sudden urges and appetites.
GEMINI Building and working with lumber favored.
CANCER It may be best to go it alone today.
LEO Gain can come from moderation, restraint.
VIRGO Some belligerent people are on your trail.
LIBRA Romantic ties are liable to be broken.
SCORP. You may have to update your methods now.
SAGIT. Concentrate on completing money plans.
CAP'CN Timely advice may aid your money progress.
AQUAR. Favorable for engagement parties, weddings.
PISCES The atmosphere holds a hint of romance.

FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1972

ARIES Invited visitors will make a hit with you.
TAURUS Your partner makes the right decisions.
GEMINI Your Stars show a complicated situation.
CANCER More care is needed in personal confidences.
LEO Slow down your pace if you're fatigued.
VIRGO Try to be forever in the know in events.
LIBRA Aspects favor romance, affection, marriage.
SCORP. Much depends on how you use authority.
SAGIT. Too much rushing would be time-wasting.
CAP'CN Others value your modest advice, counsel.
AQUAR. Avoid experiments. Keep to routine methods.
PISCES Your senior persons seem to have their way.

FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1972

ARIES A love message should be pleasing.
TAURUS Friendly words will work wonders today.
GEMINI Take a calculated risk, if impulse impels.
CANCER Scrutinize carefully offers, propositions.
LEO Some changes in your money plans likely.
VIRGO A romantic situation may come to a head.
LIBRA You seem to meet a new fascinating person.
SCORP. Seek a basis for compromise. Be reasonable.
SAGIT. A pleasing display of affection indicated.
CAP'CN Show happy acceptance of favors received.
AQUAR. You reach sound and sensible conclusions.
PISCES Don't build up suspicions or discontent.

FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1972

ARIES Time for good resolutions. Jot them down.
TAURUS Senior colleagues grant favors, if you ask.
GEMINI Contact those you've neglected lately.
CANCER A.M. message may contain some good news.
LEO Don't count chickens before they hatch.
VIRGO Your work goes well now. Keep plugging.
LIBRA Launch well considered plans and expand.
SCORP. Don't be inveigled into something crooked.
SAGIT. Depend on your own efforts. Be independent.
CAP'CN Top day for honest effort, right thinking.
AQUAR. Put duty and obligations ahead of desires.
PISCES Your romantic ideas call for discretion.

FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1973

ARIES Exciting developments are in the making.
TAURUS Friends will compromise to please you.
GEMINI Heart affairs favored. Write nice letters.
CANCER Before going ahead, visualize the outcome.
LEO Some things, some people, may irritate you.
VIRGO Plan big, for you have what it takes.
LIBRA You'll get farther ahead than imagined.
SCORP. A touchy situation could depress you.
SAGIT. Make important contacts. Activate plans.
CAP'CN Cultivate new friendships. Be outgoing.
AQUAR. Praise given where due inspires someone.
PISCES Work on some hobby of a practical nature.

FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1973

ARIES Your generosity may be badly misplaced.
TAURUS News about a sweetheart gives pleasure.
GEMINI Streamline the way for new enterprises.
CANCER Get the true picture about a new venture.
LEO Show patience with superiors and children.
VIRGO If so inclined, revive an old romance.
LIBRA A prosperous day in finances may be yours.
SCORP. Investigate first rather than be now misled.
SAGIT. Your sun sign shows day of harmony, peace.
CAP'CN Reserve some hours for restful pleasure.
AQUAR. Find new ways to increase your income.
PISCES Delay of some items need be expected.

FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1973

ARIES Certain adjustments will have to be made.
TAURUS Ideas you thought unsound turn up trumps.
GEMINI Fruit can somehow be lucky for you now.
CANCER Turn your attention only to the worthy.
LEO Others may not notice your efforts today.
VIRGO Turn on your glamour. Buy new clothes.
LIBRA Possible to outwit rivalry and opposition.
SCORP. Money matters may need more attention.
SAGIT. Sudden changes or unpleasantry indicated.
CAP'CN Do important tasks first before playing.
AQUAR. Praise a loved one generously.
PISCES Be calm despite hectic events around you.

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Award Winning Hometown Column

Old-Fashioned
New Year Greetings

Crank 'er up and steer into
the year with a full tank of our
high-test wishes and gratitude.

Hunt's Ashland
Service Station

A Prayer for Peace

It is our fervent prayer that
love, hope and peace fill your hearts
and minds as the New Year
unfolds. May peace be with you always.

Rex and Paul's Shell Service

A Prayer for the New Year

Joe Crouch Ins. Agency

PRAYER for PEACE

New Year Blessings for 1973

J. Berry Burrow County Clerk
Rose Scott and
Lois Allison Deputy Clerks

NEW YEAR GREETINGS to ALL!

Coe Oil Service
Enoch Doyle, Agent

Babson's forecast cautious regarding '73

continued from page 1

arrangement will last, however, is indeterminate. We are hopeful that this forward step can be followed by negotiations leading to a permanent peace treaty. Even if a cease-fire is achieved but fails to hold, any resumption of fighting will presumably take place without American forces. Hopefully, settlement in Vietnam may be only part of a favorable peace package which will incorporate agreements to maintain the integrity of all other Southeast Asian nations.

It is the conviction of Babson's Reports that there will be no World War III in 1973. There may well be more internal strife in the emerging nations of Africa and other underdeveloped countries of the world where the climate for leadership is still a partial vacuum and thus invites struggle for domination. Similar conditions also exist in portions of South and Central America. It is to be hoped, however, that the expected redirection of U.S. foreign policy and assistance will include a shift back to Latin America in time to stave off serious trouble there. In the Middle East no full-scale war is likely in 1973, but the area will unfortunately continue to teeter on the brink of outright conflict.

The commercial transactions achieved between this country and Russia and Red China barely scratch the surface of the trade potential which exists on an international scale. We forecast an increase in foreign commerce for the United States in the new year, involving more industry groups. Stupendous though the potential may be, we can tap only a tiny fraction of the basic markets. Iron-curtain countries simply do not have enough dollar holdings or trade credits. Sales made on a credit basis require tedious negotiations to establish terms for such transactions. Eventually, however, the worldwide revamp of the international monetary system will result in some improvement in this situation. But the solution will not come in 1973. Nonetheless, there should be a better showing in our foreign trade balance and a less horrendous deficit in our annual international balance of payments.

Good Year For Farmers

The step-up grain exports this year has stiffened agricultural commodity prices materially, and 1972 is winding up as one of the best years in history for the nation's farmers. Realized net income could reach $18.8 billion, a total which would outstrip the previous peak of $17 billion reached back in 1967. Farm income next year should hold near this all-time-record level. Domestic demand for agricultural products will remain strong, while exports are expected to rule on the upside. Farmers are already "champing at the bit" to start tilling and planting 1973's spring crops. The farm-equipment market is booming, and demand for fertilizer and seed will be brisk. Farm real estate prices have also strengthened.

Bright Consumer Psychology

All told, the nation's consumers can look forward to a good year in 1973. There will be some dissatisfaction over prices as well as occasional tremors among workers unsettled by labor-management confrontations, but the overall atmosphere will be heartening. Employment should move above the record rate already achieved during 1972. Already the "Help Wanted" newspaper sections are reflecting an increase in numbers of job openings. On the other hand, unemployment will shrink only a trifle from the current 6% of the civilian labor force, possibly reaching the Administration's target of 5.5%. This is scarcely satisfactory to labor leaders, but it must be recognized that it is difficult to reduce jobless totals—even when employment is on the rise—if there is a massive influx into the labor force of young people and mothers seeking part-time or full-time work. And this will be the case during 1973.

As we said earlier, wage rates will climb further in the year ahead. The pattern for raises and fringe benefits for the ensuing three years may well be determined by contracts inked in the key trucking, auto, and construction industries in the new year. With multi-year, agreements usually calling for the lion's share of the overall increase in the first year, average wage rates in American industry will show a significant rise in 1973, tempered somewhat by whatever controls are in effect. All of this will mean an upward push in both gross and disposable personal incomes.

Spending Will Rise

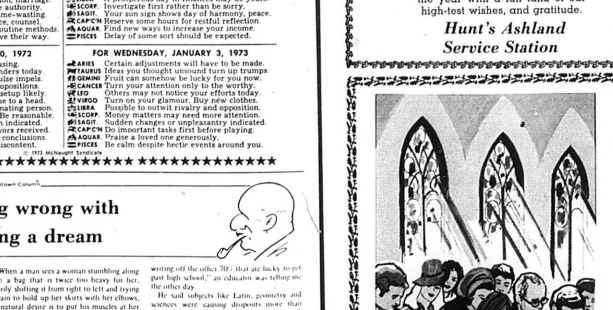
The combination of full employment, soaring wage rates, and new highs in personal income will, of course, put consumers in a spending mood. For that reason the staff of Babson's Reports looks for a substantial rise in consumer spending for 1973. The continuing advance in consumer expenditures will be spurred to some degree by a decline in the rate of savings. The trend toward putting away a smaller percentage of disposable income has been in evidence since the third quarter of 1971, after hitting a peak in the preceding quarter when consumers channeled 8.6% of their disposable income into savings. For the full year 1971 the savings rate was 8.2%, but estimate the 1972 figure will prove to have been reduced to 6.6%.

With little chance for much reduction in food prices and with consumption per capita still climbing, a fair portion of the increase in personal incomes will go for food and beverages. Consumers will also spend more for eating away from home. With new housing starts in 1972 holding up longer than was earlier expected, furniture and home furnishings are likely to remain strong areas of buyer interest. Purchases of new autos were extremely heavy during the bulk of the past year, and there is no indication that this tendency will soon be reversed. It should be noted, however, that we look for considerably less of an upward fillip in home furnishings and auto sales in 1973 than was seen in 1972. In both instances, it is getting late in the upward phase of the spending cycle. We do expect, however, quite positive gains in consumer spending for leisure-time activities and products, and-for apparel and accessories.

Capital Expenditures

Business capital expenditures will help to stimulate the economy during 1973, but not with the same potency as in previous business booms. It is probable, in fact, that a good deal of the capital spending will be not for increased productive capacity but for items of high social priority. Most firms will be laying out more money to comply with anti-pollution regulations, and companies in the oil and gas industry will expend huge sums in the search for new reserves. Major gas distributors are hard-pressed for fresh supplies of natural gas that they are advancing millions of dollars to help pay for exploration and development costs in exchange for the right to purchase a major part or the entire output of a given area. All in all, business capital expenditures in 1973 could show a gain just about matching the 10% marked up during the past year.

continued on page 4



THE NO WAR

By Read Metz

Nothing wrong with buying a dream

A recent Better Business Bureau bulletin carries a warning against a company which has been advertising a tablet to help people quit smoking. There is no evidence, say the BBB, that the tablet helps do anything of the kind.

It seems to us that the BBB is missing a point here. People who send off money for such things are not buying an antismoking remedy; they are buying a dream.

There is the old saw about how to lose 10 ugly pounds: cut off your head. Along this line, an uncle of mine decided back in the old days to give up the filthy weed. His tobacco juice was shattering my aunt's pansy bed and he was continually dropping hot ashes on the parlor rug.

So uncle answered one of those little ads in Pathfinder magazine, sending along the required dollar bill. After a while he got an official-looking prescription with a scrawl across it: "Make up your mind to quit."

It became the town joke, but not to uncle. He figured it made good sense and felt he'd gotten his dollar's worth. And anyone who has ever tried the cure knows this prescription is still the only sure one.

Kicking the habit would be the easiest thing in the world, if you could stay away from others who have done it. Those fat, nervous evangelists make a fellow so jumpy he automatically reaches for a fag, before he himself gets into such a miserable state of repairs. Wasn't for those jokers and trying to balance the bank book and writing a column, I could dump the disease with no sweat.

Buying the stop-smoking pills is not the evil BBB thinks it is. There's a good chance the things provide just the right psychological barrier against old demon nicotine needed by weak-minded tobacco-heads.

People buff and puff just to see the smoke billow out of their faces. If you don't believe it, smoke a cigarette with your eyes closed.

You not only will give up smoking in your sleep, it may even open your eyes on the strange hold the stuff has on us.

-tpt-

Some years ago a tourist was traveling along the shores of Lake Como in northern Italy. When he reached the castle Villa Ascotati, a friendly old gardener opened the gate and showed him the grounds, which the old man kept in perfect order. The tourist asked when the owner had been there.

"Twelve years ago."

"Does he ever write to you?"

"No."

"From whom do you get your instructions?"

"From his agent in Milan."

"Does he come?"

"Never."

"Who, then, comes here?"

"I am almost always alone; only once in a while a tourist comes."

"But you keep this garden in such fine condition just as though you expected your master to come tomorrow."

The old gardener promptly replied: "Today, sir, today!"

-tpt-

"When a man sees a woman stumbling along with a bag that is twice too heavy for her, wearily shifting it from right to left and trying in vain to hold up her skirts with her elbows, his natural desire is to put his muscles at her service," so wrote Maude Muller in the Chicago Journal six decades ago. She continued:

"Yet, he knows his offer would be politely refused. Her face may express acuteness varying from 'I am sorry, but it wouldn't be proper' to 'Mind your own business' with 'No, thank you' as the inevitable reply.

"And all the time she would like nothing better than to accept his help. But she has heard warning tales all her life long, about the annoyances, the confusion and the terror strange men can inflict on unprotected women and she is afraid to trust appearances, or accent or any of the evidences of his caste and quality.

"And probably she is wise. The devil is clever at masquerade and it is easier to keep out of trouble than to get out of it. Yet what a long way we have gone from original creation if one human being cannot put his hands out to help another without an introduction or a chaperon."

If Maudie thought they had come a long way from creation, she should see how far we've gone back since her day. Now a woman doesn't need her elbows to hold up her skirts. Only to hold her bikini in place.

-tpt-

"The trouble with our schools today is we are catering to the 30% that go to college and wasting off the other 70% that are lucky to get through high school," an educator was telling me the other day.

He said subjects like Latin, geometry and sciences were getting thrown out to make room for anything else. Interferes too much with learning football fundamentals and tap dancing, I guess.

Latin, they say, is a dead language. That is not true. Latin is not dead — only those people who try to understand it. I studied Latin two years because my teacher told me I looked like a gladiator and I wanted to find out what that crack meant.

I also studied French for a year and still couldn't read the label on a wine bottle. It did give me a better understanding of DeGaulle. It is divided into three parts: nose, paunch and feet.

Worst of it all, I never learned to make out the captions on those post cards decorated with pictures of beautiful girls before they found all their clothes. But I guess as long as we had Jay Chartier taking French leave with our gold bars, we had to keep studying it to stay ahead of him.

Julius Caesar cut himself a big chunk of geography using Latin, but I never heard of a quarterback able to call a simple end run in that language.

The only thing you need to know about Latin is the phrase sic semper tyrannus. When you hear someone behind your back say that, you'd better scratch off, because someone has a knife aimed at your backbone.

See et tuem.