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City Living Costs Hit Your Budget

by Margaret Buswell

Living out in the “hard old world” is fun and good experience, but it hits the pocketbook a little harder than living at home, according to home economics students who share their summer job experiences.

If your ticket is for the “big city” and summer work at the end of spring term here are some budget experiences of students who worked last summer.

Mrs. Virginia Carter Galvin and her sister shared a double room in a private home in Chicago last summer. Both worked in a lunchroom where they received their meals. They each paid $5 per week, shared bath facilities with the family and had little or no privacy as far as living room accommodations were concerned.

In addition, they paid 25 cents a week for hot water for which they built their own fire. The room was of average quality; the location, about 20 minutes from the loop.

New York

A variety of living situations prevail in New York. Miss Cleta Scholtes, of the Department of Textiles and Clothing, lived in Tatham House last summer while visiting in New York. Tatham House is one of seven YWCA branches in New York and is for both permanent guests and transient boarders. It is centrally located close to shopping centers and Grand Central Station.

Wholesome meals in the YWCA cafeteria average 30 cents for breakfast, 50 cents for lunch and 75 to 80 cents for dinner. Menus are not fancy, but the dining room is clean and pleasant. Room rates vary with the different branches but are reasonable. Miss Scholtes highly recommends YWCA facilities for the working woman who is just starting and has a limited budget.

Another student checked the New York YW registry of rooms and found a double room for $10 a week.

San Francisco

San Francisco is one of the more expensive cities in which to live, according to Wilda Jane Derryberry. In a recent federal survey the West Coast city was said to have the highest cost of living of any city in the United States.

Wilda Jane suggested that a 2½-room apartment 30 to 40 minutes from downtown would average $65 to $80 a month furnished. Two persons could share food expenses for probably $15 to $20 a week if they cooked for themselves.

She explained that foodstuffs have to be shipped in as they are not produced locally and that labor costs are high. This makes the higher cost of board. Nearly a year ago a satisfactory but plain dinner was $1.50 at the minimum while $2.50 was the minimum for more variety in menus. A simple lunch, including a salad, sandwich and coffee is now 75 cents. A complete lunch is closer to $1.25.

Entertainment is more expensive, too. The average downtown show costs at least $1. The minimum for a fairly good seat for an opera or ballet is $2.