Prices from the Past

They Got a House Full

OUR FAMILY moved from Ohio to California in 1955 and bought a three-bedroom home. We went to Sears, Roebuck & Co. and furnished it all in 1 day for $1,111.17 (invoices above).

The furniture was all solid wood—even the drawers. I'm still using the bedroom set in my home today.

—Trudy Purse, Manteca, California

Hearing Priceless But Not Pricey

WHEN I FINISHED fourth grade, in 1944, my teacher visited my parents and told them my hearing was bad and suggested they have it checked.

I was taken to a doctor, who discovered that my tonsils and adenoids were badly infected and said they should be removed.

I had the surgery and my hearing improved, but I thought the bill (above right) from Holy Cross Hospital was surprising—$13 for the overnight stay, nursing care, anesthesia and the use of the operating room!

—Shirley Zuelsdorff, Merrill, Wisconsin

Splurged a Week in Chicago

MY HUSBAND and I were married in May 1946 in Owatonna, Minnesota while he was working for an accounting firm in Minneapolis.

I was a 19-year-old farm girl, and he was 6 years older and established with a good job.

The summer went by fast and in September, I found out we were going to have a baby.

Then, in October, my husband's employer announced it wanted to transfer us to Chicago. They treated us to a week in Chicago to see

how we liked it.

We stayed at the Stevens Hotel for $6 a day. One of the treats we gave ourselves was a trip to the beautiful Aragon Ballroom. I felt like Cinderella in such remarkable surroundings.

A menu from the ballroom showed coffee was 10¢ and a banana split was 40¢. I bet you could hardly smell the cork today for what they charged for liquor and wine back then. And the most interesting item on the list was Bromo Seltzer for 15¢.

We did move to Chicago after our baby was born the next April.

—Elizabeth Kummet, Goshen, Indiana