

## THE NINTH OF THE GREAT SERIES "HOW WE SAVED FOR A HOME"

Real Stories of the People, as  
 Told by the People Themselves

For obvious reasons, the names and specific addresses of writers cannot be given in print. But the editor of The Journal will be glad to furnish by mail, if stamped envelope is sent, the name and address of the writer of any article in the series.



### On Wages of \$2 a Day

I BOUGHT a lot with my brother-in-law. I was earning \$1.25 a day. My part of the lot was to cost \$150. All I had was \$50 cash; I borrowed the rest. In a year my wages were raised to \$2 a day. In two



PAID FOR ON WAGES OF  
 \$2 A DAY



years I bought my brother-in-law's half of the lot for \$225, paying him \$150 in cash and assuming his mortgage of \$75. We set aside a certain sum from my wages every month and in two years I had the entire lot clear. Then I built my house for \$1500. I had saved \$500, and borrowed \$900. Every three months I paid \$50 off on the loan. I also took three shares in a building association, on which I could borrow \$200 on each share, less twelve per cent. premium. I made the loan and got \$528, and with this I paid off the balance of my \$900 loan and put down curb and pavement. All I had to pay now was my \$6 a month into the building and loan association. Then I built an addition to the house costing \$600 and I borrowed \$450. I paid that, made still further improvements, paid for them, and here is my house free of every penny of debt, all paid for on \$2 wages a day.  
*Pennsylvania.*

### Five Houses on \$55 a Month

WITH \$200, and a salary of \$35 a month as passenger brakeman, we set up housekeeping. My little college-girl wife was delightfully accomplished, but not of a \$35 a month order. She had never baked a pie or cake in her life, and had to learn to make a bed. I taught her to broil a steak and flop a pancake. What fun it was. But my wife mastered the foundation principles of the art of eating, and left off the flourishes.

We laid down a few laws at the start: Pay cash for everything, and what we couldn't pay for we would do without. We made up our minds to be absolutely indifferent to what our neighbors thought we ought to have or do.

A year from that time we found a cozy little place. By paying \$100 down and placing \$100 on mortgage it was ours. We had paid \$10 a month rent, total \$120. My salary was raised \$10 a month—or another \$120 a year. There, clearly, was \$240 a year we could spare. We had done it—we could do it, and so we did. Anything further we could save from actual living expenses went



SOME OF THE HOUSES BUILT  
 ON \$55 A MONTH



to improve and furnish the new home, including a \$325 piano. I never thought five cents too little to save. In three years we had paid \$720. We had a new baby, too. How quickly the years spin around! An opportunity offering, we put a mortgage on our house and bought the two houses

next it. We paid \$1500 for each. We were over \$3000 in debt now, but had \$26 a month rent coming in, or \$312 a year. That with the \$240 I was already paying made \$552 a year, and my salary was increased \$10 a month that year to \$55 a month, and it is that now.

In two years more I had paid \$1104, and met all the taxes, interest on money, repairs, etc. To meet these extras I simply kept my eyes open for counteracting extras. I never neglected an opportunity of turning an honest penny. My wife loved books. A part of every day was set aside for study. Just as she did with cooking, so she did with other departments of knowledge. She studied philosophy one year, natural science another, metaphysics another, etc. We had not much time, and not sufficient money for social events. Couldn't afford to attend every local entertainment, but put by twenty-five or five cents at a time; then when Albani, Paderewski or Sir Henry Irving came to town we could afford the best. My wife studied art from a portrait artist, and with what she could earn with her art she bought books, and had more pin-money and clothes.

Quietly we have lived all these years—persistently minding our own business—until at last—to sum up at the time of writing—we own five houses; the three before mentioned and the two adjoining them. The cottages are entirely paid for. There is still a mortgage of \$1200 against the two houses. The rents alone will pay it in two years. We have a completely furnished home. Have a horse and carriage and live in more than ordinary comfort. Have attended church regularly. My wife would be systematic in that as in other things. Hold sittings, and each of us, our little girl included, puts so much a Sunday in the envelope.  
*Ontario.*

### Buying a Farm on \$350 a Year

WHEN a mere boy my parents let me cultivate a tiny corner of the old home-garden. This miniature enterprise was full of interest and pleasure to me, and I



HOUSE ON THE FARM PAID  
 FOR ON \$350 A YEAR



put fruits not only on our home table but to sell what I had left as well.

When I was twenty-one I bought from my parents with the money I had saved from the fruits of my little plot one acre of ground, and this I stocked with fruit trees. There was an adjoining field of five acres, very steep and hard to cultivate, upon which my father said I could grow things if I could do anything with it. I planted it full. Then I married, borrowed \$500, and we started to build a cottage, finishing the three lower rooms first so that we could move in. The next year our trees did well, and we paid the interest on the borrowed capital, a little on the debt itself and improved the cottage somewhat. We also built a poultry house. The second year we paid off some more on the debt and erected a two-story dairy, with a reservoir below and a workshop above.

The third year we added a kitchen and brought water into the house.

The next year we erected a barn with fruit cellar and storage room.

Piece by piece the place grew. Each year, by close economy, we decreased our loan and added something to the house or place.

Meanwhile two children were born to us.

To-day our delightful little country place is free from any debt. We have spent \$1200 on the place altogether. It is just ten years since we bought the lot. Meantime our table and cellar were kept abundantly filled, our wardrobes in respectable condition, our stable stocked and our carriage room neatly furnished.

And we have done this on a cash income of as little as \$150 for a single season and never exceeding \$350 for the best.  
*Ohio.*

### The Dollar Found in the Snow

AFTER having been married twelve years, during which time my husband had tried and failed to pay for three different homes and a business, we began all over and agreed that I should now handle the finances. My husband was getting \$1.75 a day, or \$43.75 a month, with which we were paying \$12 a month rent and caring for two children. One night he handed me a dollar, which he had found that morning in the snow, and though I needed coal and several things, I reasoned that, had it never been found, in some way we would have lived, and that this money should be used to start a bank account. To think was to act, and lest I might change my mind I hurried to the bank, making my first deposit. Every week afterward something was added.

In six months my husband found other work which paid him \$2.25 a day—a place he still holds—and then I began a systematic plan of putting aside a sum, not at the end of the week, but at the beginning.

In four years I saved \$500, with which I made my first payment on a lot costing \$1000,



FINDING A DOLLAR  
 STARTED THIS HOUSE



borrowing from the man of whom I bought the lot \$1800 with which to build a home. I made a draft for the interior of the house and employed an architect to work it

out and partially superintend the work, which was let to a contractor who I afterward learned had poor credit, making it impossible for him to get material he did not at once pay for. Consequently when the house was ready for interior finishing he could not get the material, and so I went to the owner of a lumber factory, told my needs, and asked him to accept three \$30 notes monthly, with no indorsement, as I would ask no one to sign a note for me. He looked at me hard, then said he would do it, and though the saving cost many a tear, each note was paid three days before maturity that he might have no cause to doubt me.

The house complete cost me \$2200. Semi-annually I paid interest and \$50 or any multiple thereof, always the multiple. Of late years I have also had the assistance of my son, who is paying his share most gladly.  
*Michigan.*

### The Point is to Make a Start

MY HUSBAND, myself, and a son of eleven were without a home or a dollar toward one, when we decided to make a start. Our income was \$600 a year. We took six shares in a building association, paying \$1.50 a week. In five years and twenty-eight weeks the stock had matured and we received \$600, having paid into the association \$432. We reinvested the \$600 in a similar association at eight per cent. interest. In a year and a half the interest on the \$600 compounded was \$73.92. We had saved enough money in small amounts to swell the sum to \$700. Out of that we took \$300 and bought a lot. That left us \$400. We borrowed \$800 for five years at eight per cent. interest, giving a mortgage on the property. Then let the contract for an eight-room house for \$1200. Then we saved again. I took two boarders at \$3.50 a week each. In this way we are



TO MAKE A START IS THE  
 MAIN THING



paying the \$800 which is owing on the house.  
*Indiana.*