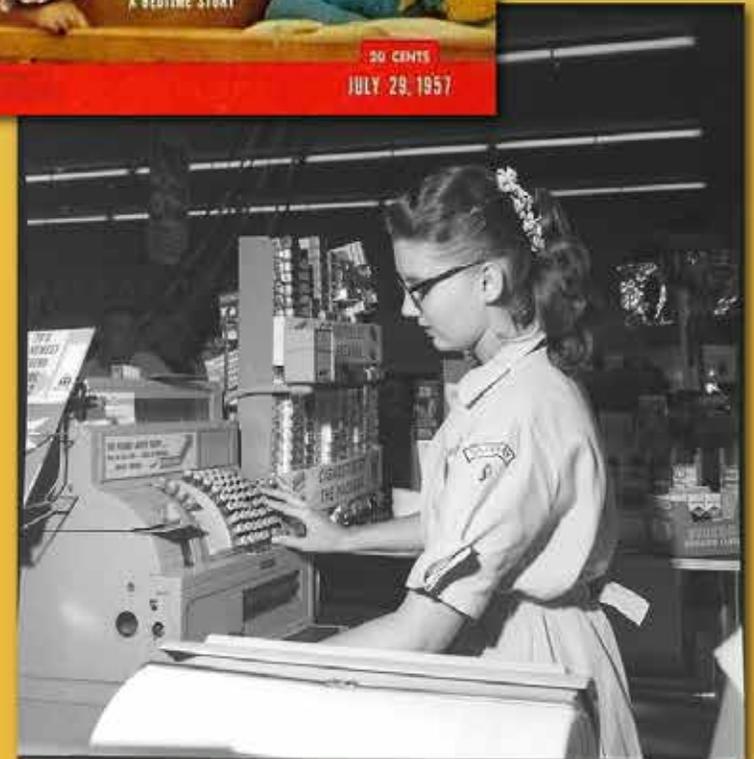
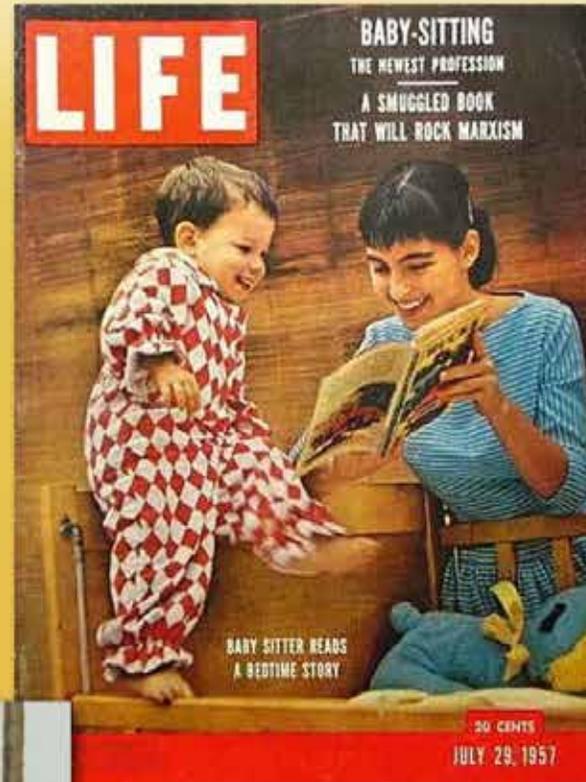


Remember When . . . Your First Job



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Remember When . . . a reminiscing activity

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WEEK OF OCT 5, 2015

Our first jobs were often difficult, demanding...and very rewarding.

Do you remember your first job? For some of us, memories of our first real job are as vivid as if they happened yesterday. Others of us have had so many jobs since then that our first job seems like it happened in another lifetime. But that first job still has special meaning because it represented our first shot at independence. This week, let's reminisce about our first jobs, and how they helped to shape our characters.

If you grew up on a farm, you learned about the importance of hard physical labor very early in your life. There is always something to do on a farm, and it usually needs to get done right away. **Who here grew up on a farm? What were your regular chores as a child? What other jobs did you take on as you got older? What were your favorite and least-favorite jobs and chores?**

If you grew up in a suburban or urban area, your first job might have been as a paperboy — or papergirl. All you needed was a bike, a great memory, and a good attitude. Well, you also needed the ability to get up at an insane hour in the morning to pick up the day's load, the strength to fight through rainstorms and windstorms and snowstorms, and the charm to get people to pay up when the bill came due. **Who here had a paper route? What did you have to do in this job? How much money did you make?** One of today's richest men, Warren Buffett, got his start as an ambitious paperboy; when other deliverers quit, he took on their routes — and their penny-a-paper profit — until he had a little empire. **What business lessons did you learn in your first job?**

Another popular first job was babysitting. Most of us who had younger siblings were already quite experienced in most

necessary babysitting tasks. **Did anyone here take on jobs babysitting outside of your own home? Do you remember how much you got paid per hour? What did you need to know in order to be a good babysitter?** The era of the “professional” babysitter really started in the 1950s, when Americans started having extra money and craved some leisure time. **Do you remember this “Life” Magazine cover from 1957 announcing babysitting as a new profession?** Those babysitters who built up a good reputation with one family were soon asked to sit by multiple families in the neighborhood. However, some of these families were easier to deal with than others. **What were some of the strangest or most difficult situations you faced as a babysitter?**

There were plenty of other opportunities for young entrepreneurs. Anyone with a lawnmower and a good pair of gloves could do a brisk business with spring and summer gardening. In autumn, you could trade the lawnmower for a rake and you were suddenly a leaf removal expert. And of course, in winter, a solid shovel could qualify you to keep driveways and sidewalks clear. **What kinds of businesses did you set up on your own or with friends?**

And, for many of us, our employment history began with working for someone else's business. It made us feel part of a big operation, even if all we did was sweep the floors, stock the shelves, pump someone's gas, or bring the right wrench to the right mechanic. Some of the best jobs were as store clerks. The young woman shown here looks like she is enjoying her job as a Safeway cashier. **What was your first real job? How much did you make? How did this job help prepare you for later jobs?** END

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