

**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
Questions and Answers

George Dietrich, field representative of the Social Security Administration, is in Edenton every Thursday in the Court Room in the Chowan County Court House.

Many of today's children are born with double protection under social security. A claim taken in the office last week brought this fact forcibly home to employees of the District Office in Greenville, N. C.

The claim was filed by a young father, Tom Smith, for his daughter, Mary, just 3 months old. The birth of Mary was a very blessed event because the parents had been childless during their first six years of marriage. Knowing that his wife had a very weak heart, made Tom feel doubly blessed as he prepared to move the mother and child home from the hospital. But, as Mary slept in her little crib at the hospital, her young mother died—the birth of her child being just too much for her heart.

Tom waited nearly 3 months after the mother's death before coming to the social security office. There were a lot of things he had to look after—finding someone to take care of Mary was just one of his big problems.

When Mary left the hospital she was greeted at home by her paternal grandmother who had moved into the home to help raise her.

When Tom came to the social security office, he couldn't understand at first why the representative he talked to was so interested in the work history of his wife and the fact that he had a small child. He had come because he was told that maybe social security would pay something toward the burial expenses of his wife. He never even considered the fact that monthly payments might be due him for Mary.

As we questioned Tom about his wife's work history, we were able to determine that the child was deemed to be dependent on her mother at the time the mother died. This was explained to Tom in this way. The social security law recognizes the dependency of a child living with a natural father without question. Under the provisions, however, a child living with both parents at the time of the mother's death is considered dependent only if she was either supporting the child or had worked in a job covered by social security for at least 1 1/2 years in the 3 years before her death. Since Mary's mother had worked until about 4 months before she died, Mary was deemed to be dependent on her.

Imagine Tom's surprise when we told him he would receive a lump-sum death payment to help with the burial expenses and also monthly payments of \$51.80 for Mary beginning with the month in which his wife died. These payments to him

for Mary will continue until she reaches age 18, unless in the meantime she dies, marries, or is legally adopted outside her family circle.

This double protection for children is becoming more and more common in our society as many mothers today are working in jobs covered by social security. In Tom's case, he plans to put the monthly payments which he receives for Mary, aside for her college education because, as he said, he is making enough money from his own work to adequately support his family.

**Health And Safety Tips**

From The American Medical Association

**HEARING LOSS**

Have you noticed lately that other people just aren't talking loud enough much of the time? It could be that your family and friends have all started mumbling. But it's much more likely that your own hearing is beginning to fade.

Or, has someone in the family, or a close friend, recently begun to ask you to repeat words, phrases and sentences frequently? Even when you're reasonably certain you spoke loud and clear? This friend or relative may be suffering hearing loss.

To find out whether hearing is fading, the first person to consult is the family doctor, says a pamphlet of the American Medical Association.

The physician may find that the hearing loss is due to impacted wax in the ear canal or some other obstruction. Or there may be an infection that can block the transmission of vibrations inside the ear or affect the nerves of hearing. Certain drugs and industrial chemicals can affect hearing, and mumps and scarlet fever, a cold or acute sinusitis frequently cause swelling of the mucous membranes associated with the ear. A very loud noise or a sharp blow may damage the ear-drum.

The physician can determine by a variety of tests whether loss of hearing is due to nerve damage or to an interference with the transmission of sound waves. If there is obstruction he can tell whether it is due to infection or another cause. He will determine whether treatment will help or correct the hearing problem. Several surgical procedures are used to help the deaf to hear, and there also are medical treatments.

In many cases, however, treatment cannot restore hearing, and then a hearing aid may be prescribed.

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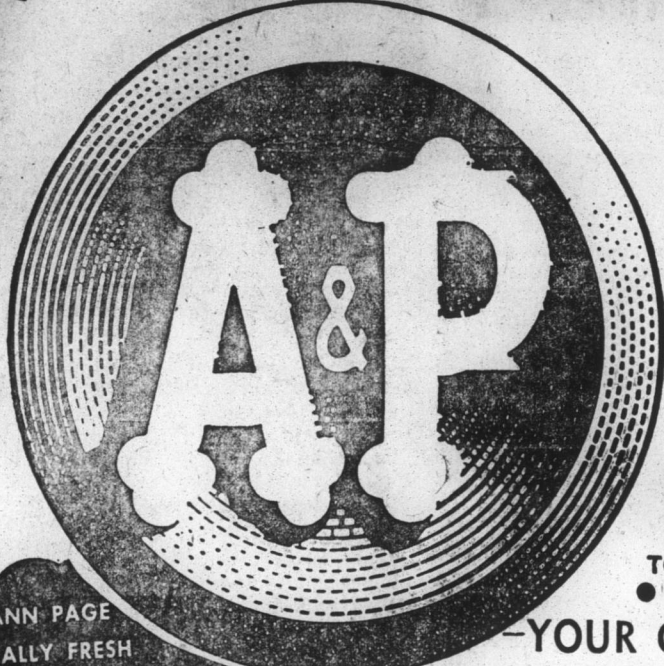
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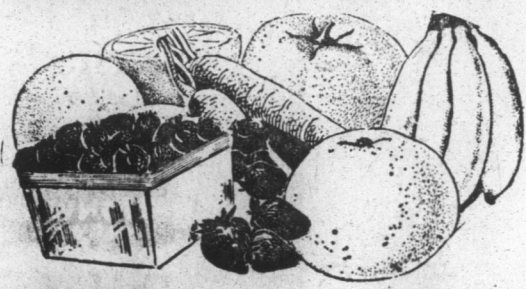
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