

Social Security Update

By Lee E. Wallio
Field Representative

Some of the least known Social Security benefits are those payable to divorced persons, to adults disabled in childhood, and to the dependent parents of a worker.

These are among the benefits often payable to certain dependents of a retired or disabled worker or survivors of a deceased worker.

Benefits may be paid to divorced persons at age 62 if the marriage to the worker lasted 10 years or more.

The surviving divorced wife or husband may qualify for widow or widower's benefits at age 60, or for disability benefits at age 50 under certain circumstances.

Adults disabled in childhood can receive benefits on the record of a parent who receives retirement or disability benefits or who died after working long enough in jobs covered by Social Security.

Adults disabled before age 22 can apply for benefits at any age, so long as it can be proven that the disability began before age 22 and there is little chance of improvement.

A worker's dependent parents can get benefits if he or she worked long enough under Social Security and the worker provided at least one-half of the parent's support.

Proof of support must be filed with Social Security within 2 years of the worker's death.

These benefits, like all benefits paid to the dependents and survivors of retired, disabled, or deceased workers, are designed to partially replace the earnings upon which the person was dependent.

In many instances, people

who would ordinarily qualify cannot get benefits because they are earning over the limit set for people who receive Social Security benefits (in 1982, \$4,440 for people under age 65 and \$6,000 for people age 65 and over).

For more information on these Social Security benefits and others available to dependents and survivors, call the Social Security office in Elizabeth City at 338-2161.

Skiing Events Are Planned

WINSTON-SALEM—Camel cigarettes and 28 ski resorts have joined forces to launch an extensive promotional program that will bring challenging and entertaining ski activities to a mass audience each weekend this winter.

Called Camel Ski Adventure, the nationwide program begins Dec. 17 and runs through April 20.

Designed to appeal to both active skiers and spectators, the weekend events include single and dual slalom races, demonstrations by professional paraski teams, ski clinics by Olympic downhill racer Andy Mill, and a variety of resort, club and lounge entertainment in each location.

Substantial sampling and premium distribution will be conducted during the activities.

The program will be supported with local newspaper advertising and promotional materials.

Suppliers for the promotion are Hill & Knowlton Sports Division and Metacorp Inc., both of New York.

Washington, D.C. Introduces Braille Maps For Blind Visitors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When you're new in town, a city map can help navigative. When you're new in town and blind, most city maps don't do much for you.

That situation has changed in Washington, D.C. A relief map complete with miniature replicas of famous landmarks, government buildings, major streets and parks, each labeled in the braille alphabet, is available to visually impaired visitors to the nation's capital.

The map was constructed by Patricia McKinney, a teacher at the South Carolina School for the Blind, for the use of high school students attending educational programs at Washington's Close Up Foundation.

Close Up is a nonprofit organization created in 1971 to educate high school students and teachers in the workings of the federal government. More than 100,000 young people have attended the intensive one-week training sessions, including 124 visually impaired and 1,158 hearing impaired students.

Operated under a grant from R.J. Reynolds Industries, the government training sessions for blind and deaf students have been tremendously successful, says Steve Janger, president of the Close Up Foundation.

With the help of specially printed braille texts, interpreters for deaf students and other educational tools, handicapped students get as much or more information out of their week in Washington as the typical student participant, Janger says.

"The braille map is an especially welcome addition to the Close Up program,"

Janger says. "It will enable visually impaired students to learn more about Washington than a verbal description can give. The students will be able to get an idea of the layout of the city and a mental picture of where the famous landmarks are located."

During their week in Washington, Close Up participants meet with elected and appointed officials, representatives of government agencies, lobbyists and reporters for question and answer sessions. The students also attend seminars on topics currently before Congress, workshops on the way the government functions and tours of famous landmarks and historical sites.

A major sponsor of the Close Up Foundation, R.J. Reynolds Industries and its subsidiaries also co-sponsor the organization's public affairs programming on cable television and provide

substantial operating funds for the weekly student training sessions.

R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., with headquarters in Winston-Salem, N.C., is the parent company of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Del Monte Corp. (canned and prepared frozen foods, beverages and fresh fruit); R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International, Inc.; Heublein Inc. (spirits and wines, food service and franchising, specialty grocery products); Aminol USA, Inc. (energy exploration and development);

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national, Inc.; Heublein Inc. (spirits and wines, food service and franchising, specialty grocery products); Aminol USA, Inc. (energy exploration and development);

tax-free monthly stipend of \$100. Students enrolled in the ROTC are also eligible for three and two-year scholarships that provide a monthly stipend and pays the cost of tuition, fees and textbooks.

At ECU the Department of Military Science will be under the ECU School of Technology. The initial office will be located in Room 324 of Erwin Hall and beginning Feb. 2, 1983, the office will be staffed each Wednesday to answer questions

Universities Sign Up For Cross-Enrollment Program

GREENVILLE — East Carolina University and N.C. State University have approved a cross-enrollment agreement for the establishment of a U.S. Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) extension center to be located at ECU.

In the agreement, signed by the chancellors of the two schools Friday, ECU will provide classrooms and other facilities for the Army ROTC curriculum. The

program will be administered by the Department of Military Science at NCSU.

"ECU will be an extension center of this program until such time that the size of the participating student enrollment should warrant the transfer of ECU to an independent host institution status," Co. F.W. Wanner, a professor and chairman of Military Science at NCSU, explained.

N.C. State's ROTC

program began in 1965. ECU currently administers an Air Force ROTC program through its Department of Aerospace Studies.

Under the new program which begins with the fall semester of 1983, ECU will offer freshmen through junior level classes in ROTC military science related topics. The program will be expanded in 1984-85 to cover the full four years.

All military texts and equipment are provided without cost to the student. Advanced cadets receive a

East Assigned To Committee

WASHINGTON—Sen. John East, R-N.C., has announced he has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Armed Services for the 98th Congress when it convenes in January, 1983.

"This assignment is especially significant for North Carolina because of the many military installations in the state, and because no other member of Congress from North Carolina currently serves on the armed services committee of either house," East said.

East will give up his current seats on the Labor and Human Resources Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in return for the armed service assignment. East is also a member of the Judiciary Committee and is chairman of its Separation of Powers Subcommittee where he will continue to serve in the new Congress.

"The Armed Services Committee has been one of my major interests for a long time now. I am very concerned about America's defense posture, given the massive Soviet military build-up of the last decade, and I'm looking forward to working to improve our position," said East.

The Armed Services Committee Chairman is Sen. John Tower, R-Tex. The committee has not yet made subcommittee assignments for the new Congress.

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Eye Fatigue

Fatigue can be an enemy of good vision. It may be beneficial to rest and relax your eyes if you feel fatigue setting in. There are also some simple routines which can eliminate mild eye fatigue. Keep in mind, however, that these exercises are designed for people who have no visual problem which needs correction. They are not exercises to strengthen your eyes or to get rid of spectacles. EYE EXERCISES ARE NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR VISUAL CARE.

Try the following: One, glance around to the extreme corners of the room without moving your head. Look slowly and rhythmically from one spot to another. Two, after a couple of minutes of these movements, close your eyes and rest for ten seconds, blink a few times, then rest for another ten seconds. Three, repeat the movements, but going in the opposite direction. Then close your eyes again.

If this provides no relief, or if eye fatigue seems to be a chronic problem, you should consult your eye doctor.

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