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BY JANUARY 25

**GI Insurance Dividends To Be Paid Soon**

In response to President Johnson's directive for the earliest possible payment of the \$234-million GI insurance dividend for 1964, the VA has announced that the first checks would reach veterans by January 2.

In reporting this, J. D. DeRamus, Manager, North Carolina VA Regional Office, said payments to all of the 4,725,000 veterans participating in the dividend would be completed in record time—by January 25.

The President, on December 8, ordered the accelerated payments as a stimulant to the economy.

The VA estimates that 92,454 veterans in the state of North Carolina will receive dividends amounting to \$4,586,700.

Korean conflict veterans hold non-participating policies that do not provide regular annual dividend payments.

The regular dividends are primarily a return to the policyholders of part of their premium payments since the death rate among GI policy holders continues to be lower than the rate upon which the payments were established by law.

DeRamus reminded policyholders that the preparing and mailing of dividend payments are automatic and require no correspondence from veterans or their families.

In fact, such correspondence might delay the dividend distribution process, he said.

**Winter Ice Signs Ready Over State**

New signs are being installed throughout North Carolina as winter weather and icy roads continue to plague highway motorists. The diamond-shaped black on yellow signs are being posted by the North Carolina State Highway Commission in areas where freezing and dangerous conditions are cited.

Two signs have been designed which read: ICE ON ROAD and ICE ON BRIDGE. A convertible flap allows maintenance crews to display the sign when hazardous road conditions exist, and to cover it when weather permits. The specially designed warning signs have been posted in the western part of North Carolina, and will be posted throughout the state in the following months, when needed.

The design and installation of all highway traffic signs is the responsibility of the Traffic Department of the North Carolina State Highway Commission.

Chronic respiratory disease was the leading cause of disability recognized by Social Security authorities during a recent twelve-month period. Your TB Association fights respiratory diseases, including TB, through its annual Christmas Seal Campaign.

**Carols From Many Lands And Epochs Fill The Air At Time Of Christmas**

From the first angelic chorus, "Glory to God in the Highest," the sound of voices raised in song and rejoicing for the birth of Christ swells across the ages. Today, carols from many lands and many epochs fill the air at holiday time.

Sources of some carols are lost in the past, but many can be traced to interesting origins.

**"Silent Night"**  
A broken organ inspired "Silent Night." So that the people of the parish might have a hongi, Christmas, Father Joseph Mohr, an Austrian priest, wrote the carol, and his organist composed the music. It was sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, to guitar accompaniment.

**"Deck the Halls"**  
Expressing the merriment of Christmas, "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly" is an English carol set to an old Welsh air. It refers to such ancient traditions as the "blazing Yule" log.

**"First Nowell"**  
First published in English, "The First Nowell" is believed to be primarily a French carol. The French word "Noel" comes from the Latin word meaning birth; "Nowell" is the anglicized version. Both mean Christmas or a "shout of joy" for the birth of Christ. Tune is a medieval shepherd song.

**"Adeste Fidelis"**  
"O Come All Ye Faithful" or "Adeste Fidelis" may have been written by the 13th century writer and teacher, Saint Bonaventure, but its exact origin is a mystery. There's no secret about its popularity today. It has been translated into 120 languages, and there are more than 40 English versions.

**"O Tannenbaum"**  
Most familiar of many Christ-

mas carols, originating in Germany, "O Tannenbaum," or "O Christmas Tree," celebrates the evergreen as an emblem of immortality. It has added familiarity in the U. S., since the tune is used for several college songs and for the state song, "Maryland, My Maryland."

**"Merry, Gentlemen"**  
An old English carol that sometimes suffers from a comma out of place is "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen." The meaning is not "God rest you, merry gentlemen" but "God keep you, merry gentlemen."

**"Herald Angels Sing"**  
Charles Wesley, who during his lifetime (1707-1788) wrote hundreds of hymns, was inspired to write "Hark, the Herald Angels

Sing" as he walked to church on Christmas day and heard the London church bells chime.

During the past 50 years, the heart and blood vessel death rate in ages 5 to 24 has been reduced by 90 per cent, according to the North Carolina Heart Association.

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