

## Social Security Benefits

Social security benefits paid to residents of Davie County totaled 182,000 a month as 1969 ended, Robert Thomas, social security district manager, reported today.

A benefit increase, signed into law by President Nixon on December 30, 1969, has since raised the monthly rate of payment by 15 percent for the 2,553 social security beneficiaries in Davie County. 1,547 are retired workers and their dependents. Another 592 are receiving benefits as the survivors of workers who have died, and 341 are getting benefits as disabled workers or the dependents of disabled workers. Thomas pointed out that although the majority of social security beneficiaries are older people more than one out of every four is under age 60.

In Davie County alone, 650 people under age 60 are collecting social security payments each month. The 340 who are under 18 are receiving payments because a working father or mother has died or is getting social security disability or retirement benefits. Of those who are 18 through 21 years of age, most are getting students' benefits under a provision which permits the continuation of a child's benefits past his or her 18th birthday, and up to age 22 if he or she is attending school full time.

But in this 18 to 22 age group, Thomas said, are some other types of beneficiaries, illustrating the broad family protection that is provided working people of all ages under the social security program.

A number are the children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers who became disabled before they reached 18 and who will probably never be able to go to work and become self-supporting. The benefits of these young people, severely handicapped by physical or mental disabilities, will continue indefinitely and benefits are also payable to their mothers if the disabled son or daughter is in the mother's care.

Another small but significant group of youthful social security beneficiaries are those who are receiving social security benefits as disabled workers. Under a 1967 change in the law, disability benefits can be paid to a person who becomes disabled for work even if he has less than five years of work under social security. As little as a year and a half is required in the case of a worker who becomes disabled before age 24.

**Cooleemee Journal**  
Founded 1906

J. C. Sell—1906-1940  
Mrs. J. C. Sell 1940-1953  
Mrs. J. C. Sell, Jr. 1953-1967

Published Wednesdays  
by the  
Davie Publishing Co.  
Box 548  
Cooleemee, N. C. 27014

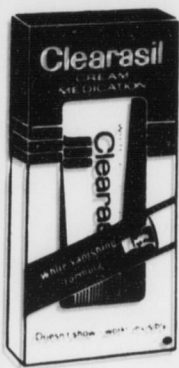
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### Subscription Rate

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