

### The Veterans Corner

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Below are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to some of the many current questions from former servicemen and their families. Further information on veterans benefits may be obtained at any office.

Q—I have been waiting to file my 1968 income tax return until I receive a statement from the Veterans Administration as to the amount of service-connected

compensation I was paid last year. When may I expect this statement?  
 A—Since your service-connected disability compensation is not taxable, you will not receive any statement from VA and need not delay filing your return. As a matter of fact, veterans' benefits generally are exempt from taxation and need not be reported on income tax returns. Among these exempt veterans' benefits are pension, payments, educational assistance allowances, grants for specially-equipped homes and cars for the severely disabled, and payments to surviving dependents of deceased veterans. The only reportable item is the interest earned on G. I. insurance dividends left as deposit or credit with

VA. This interest is not considered a veteran's benefit and must be reported as income. Veterans were advised on the anniversary date of their policy in 1968 of the amount of interest their policy earned for the year.  
 Q—I neglected to have some needed dental work done while in the Army because I was anxious to get out of service. Can I get treatment from the Veterans Administration? I have been out of service three months.  
 A—Under a new VA policy, a veteran may receive such treatment, without regard to supporting military records, if he applies within six months after release from service, and if it is determined professionally within eight months after separation that the condition is service-connected. With supporting military records, a veteran may receive VA dental treatment for service-connected conditions during the first year after release from service.

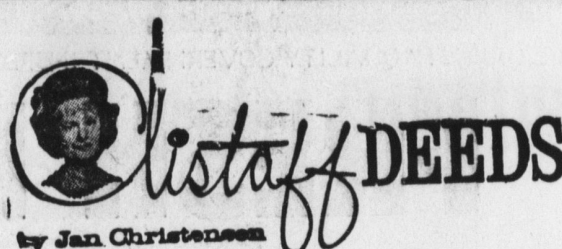
The use of seat belts could have saved the lives of at least 300 people in North Carolina during the past year.

### Non-Farm Jobs On Increase

RALEIGH — Employment increased 12,800 in nonfarm establishments in North Carolina during December, rising to a total of 1,638,800, State Labor Commissioner Frank Crane reported today.

Crane said the year-end job figure was up 59,800 from a year ago. He also reported a penny increase in average hourly earnings during December, bringing factory employee earnings to \$2.26; a half-hour rise in working hours, bringing the average workweek to 41.3 hours; and a \$1.54 increase in weekly earnings which averaged \$93.34 last month.

Crane said factory employment totaling 699,706 in December was up 400 from the November level and was 22,800 above the year-ago figure. Nonmanufacturing jobs, at a December level of 944,100, were 12,400 higher than in November and 37,000 above a year ago. Largest December job increase was a 13,100 gain in retail trade brought on by Christmas merchandising. Employment increased 500 in apparel plants. Increases of 300 each were reported in lumbering, machinery, chemicals,



(News items this week from Warren, Randolph, Columbus and Burke counties.)

**MAKING HOME IMPROVEMENTS**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Jones,

Warrenton, Rt. 3, are proud of the improvements being made in their home.

The house is being repaired and remodeled, making it more convenient and comfortable for the retired couple, reports Mrs. Bertha Forte, home economics Extension agent, Warren County.

A bedroom in the house is being converted into a family room; the living room will become a guest bedroom and a new master bedroom will be added adjoining the new family room.

Throughout the house the ceilings are being lowered to make heating more efficient, the agent added.

Mrs. Jones said "after being married 54 years, we are going to enjoy more comfort than

**FROZEN PULP**  
 Randolph County Homemakers are finding the sale of frozen persimmon pulp a sure way of adding to their incomes, relates Mrs. Sarah W. Durante, Randolph County home economics Extension agent.

Persimmon Pudding, a delicacy year round in homes, is also featured on the menus of many local restaurants, she notes.

In preparing the pulp, the persimmons are gathered after a heavy frost, and strained through a food mill. The pulp is then packed in pint containers and frozen.

**APPLIES NEW SKILLS**  
 Mrs. Ronald Fisher, Whiteville, Rt. 5, has put into practice the new skills and knowledge she learned at an Extension Homemakers Club workshop.

As a young homemaker and a member of the Union Valley Extension Homemakers Club, Mrs. Fisher participated in a beginners sewing class in the spring of 1968. She had never done any sewing before, but her husband promised to buy her a new sewing machine once she learned to use one.

Since the sewing class, Mrs. Fisher has been busy sewing for her family and others, reports Mrs. Betty C. Thompson, home economics Extension agent, Columbus County.

She has made 16 garments for herself, 12 garments for her young daughters and 4 garments for other relatives.

Mrs. Fisher is pleased that she is saving money through home sewing, Mrs. Thompson concludes.

**WORKS WHILE SNOW FLIES**  
 While the snow flies in Burke County, members of the Jonas Ridge Extension Homemakers Club and the Jonas Ridge Community Action program will be busy making mattresses.

During a series of workshops, 14 mattresses will be completed, ranging from king-size down to baby crib size, says Mrs. Jane C. Arndt, home economics Extension agent.

Many of these Jonas Ridge families already have new sheets, pillow-cases and blankets ordered through the Better Bedding Program of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, the agent states.

In addition, the women of the Jonas Ridge community get together several times a month to quilt.

"It will be interesting to see the long-range results of the Better Bedding program on these families," Mrs. Arndt observes.

The American people through their Heart Fund have contributed \$140 million to research in heart disease, states the North Carolina Heart Association.

### Footo Reports Earnings Up

Footo Mineral Company reports net earnings of \$2,870,335 for the year 1968 compared with net earnings of \$2,552,110 for 1967. The higher earnings for 1968 were sufficient to cover the preferred stock earnings requirement in the amount of \$2,862,396, compared to the year 1967 when the earnings were insufficient to cover the preferred stock requirement. Income taxes on 1968 earnings were reduced by an Investment Tax Credit of \$1,066,000 due principally to the completion of the New Johnsonville electrolytic manganese plant during the year. In 1967 the comparable credit was \$387,000.

Net sales for 1968 were \$80,882,227 compared to the \$82,870,086 reported for the prior year. Increased lithium sales partially offset declines in sales of the Metallurgical Division. Uranium operations were phased out at mid-year, with a resultant reduction of total sales.

### Sgt. Davis Member Of 24th Infantry

AHTNC — Army Sergeant Donald L. Davis, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Davis, Bessemer City, N. C., is in Germany as a forward observer with the 24th Infantry Division taking part in the military Exercise REFORGER 1. His wife, Patricia, lives in Forest City.

The exercise, to be conducted in Europe in January and February 1969, involves U. S. Army units based in the U. S. and Europe. It includes about 12,000 Army troops assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, based at Ft. Riley, Kan., and to combat service support units from across the country. These units were flown to Europe in January.

Dr. Paul Dudley White, world renowned heart specialist, calls heart disease the "twentieth century epidemic." The Heart Fund is dedicated to the conquest of this epidemic.

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**BUTTER..** LB. **69¢**  
**COFFEE..** LB. CAN **59¢**  
**MILK..** 6 Gall Cans **89¢**

**ASTOR VEGETABLE SHORTENING**  
 3 LB. CAN **39¢**

**AGED EXTRA SHARP N.Y. State Cheese** LB. **89¢**  
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**WHITE ARROW BLEACH**  
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**50 EXTRA GREEN STAMPS**  
**50 EXTRA GREEN STAMPS**  
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**Cream Corn....** 5 No. 303 CANS **\$1.**  
**Garden Peas** 5 No. 303 CANS **\$1.**

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**Potatoes** 10 LB. BAG **69¢**  
**Beans..** 2 LBS. **39¢**

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**Col. KM Saver Says . . .**

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