

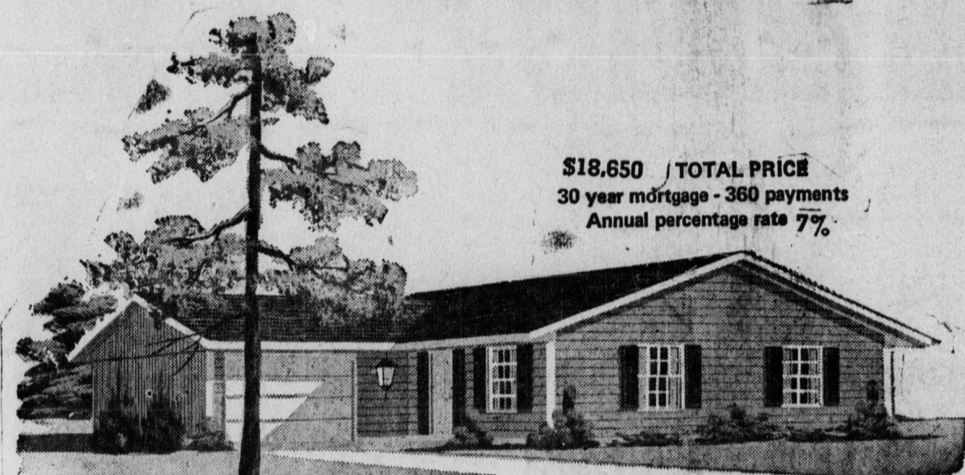
\$200 DOWN

FHA 235 PROGRAM

STOP

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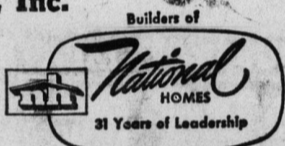
\$18,650 / TOTAL PRICE
30 year mortgage - 360 payments
Annual percentage rate 7%

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MORE FAMILIES LIVE IN A NATIONAL HOME THAN ANY OTHER HOME IN THE WORLD

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Gastonia Social Security Office, along with social security offices in 850 communities around the country, has been appointed by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Elliott L. Richardson to serve as a local center to receive complaints about substandard conditions in nursing homes. Persons who have information about instances of poor quality care, neglect, unsanitary, or unsafe conditions in a nursing home may give that information to the nearest social security office in person, or by letter or phone. If desired, the name of the person making the complaint and the name of the nursing home patient will be kept confidential. Lex G. Barkley, Social Security District Manager in Gastonia, noted.

The social security office will see that the complaint gets to the proper Federal, State, or local authority for investigation.

The designation of the Nation's social security offices as "nursing home listening posts" is preliminary to a plan announced by Secretary Richardson for the establishment of a special grievance committee in the States. This committee would take complaints and suggestions about nursing home care and make sure they get to the right people. They would also find out what nursing home patients think — not only about the facilities where they live, but also about alternatives to nursing home care — ways in which older people may be enabled to stay in familiar surroundings instead of being institutionalized.

Among steps already taken by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to guarantee a decent environment for the older person who is a nursing home patient, Barkley cited Medicare enforcement activities under which more than 100 extended care facilities have had their approval terminated because they failed to meet health and safety standards.

As of last week, he said, another 43 facilities are on notice that unless they meet the standards they will be cut off from Medicare funds.

On the positive side, more than 4,000 Medicare surveys in the past year have led to the correction of deficiencies and the upgrading of care — not just for Medicare patients, but for all pa-

Traffic Deaths Are Mounting

During this Christmas holiday, peace on the highways and good will toward other drivers will help keep you out of the 1,400 traffic accidents which the N. C. State Motor Club estimates may take 26 lives and injure 800 other persons on North Carolina's streets and highways over the long weekend.

The state will count its holiday highway toll from 6 p. m. Thursday, Dec. 23, through midnight Sunday, Dec. 26, for a period of 78 hours. In a similar span last year, the casualty count came to 31 killed (18 on Christmas Day) and 656 injured in 1,145 accidents.

Leading causes of accidents were speeding, driving left of center, failure to yield and driving under the influence.

"Our traffic deaths this year are running well ahead of 1970," said Thomas B. Watkins, president of the motor club and the National Automobile Association. "It will take a near miracle in the short remaining to prevent an increase in highway fatalities for the first time in three years—but it can be done!"

"The Highway Patrol will be out to curb speeders and drunken drivers. The traditional holiday parties will bring out the real menace — the social drinkers whose vision, reflexes and caution are impaired by just a small amount of alcohol. Have a Merry Christmas, but if you drink at all, let someone who doesn't do the driving for you!"

tients in the institution.

Actions are also being taken to obtain State enforcement of Medicaid standards. Since the Federal Government pays only a portion of the cost of nursing home care under Medicaid, the Federal Government does not have direct enforcement authority.

The Veterans Corner

Editor's Note: Below are 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 VA office or your local service organization representative.

Q.—My husband, a World War II veteran, passed away recently. Is he eligible for a headstone?

A.—Yes. Any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service whose last period of service was terminated honorably is eligible for this benefit.

Q. I draw VA compensation, and would like to know whether I can have payments on my VA insurance loan deducted from this

compensation?

A.—Yes. If you wish to use this method of repaying your insurance loan, get VA Form 29-888 from your nearest VA office, complete it, and forward it to the VA office to which you pay your insurance premiums.

Q.—I am a Vietnam veteran interested in training under the GI bill, but am not sure what courses I should take. Can VA as-

sist me?

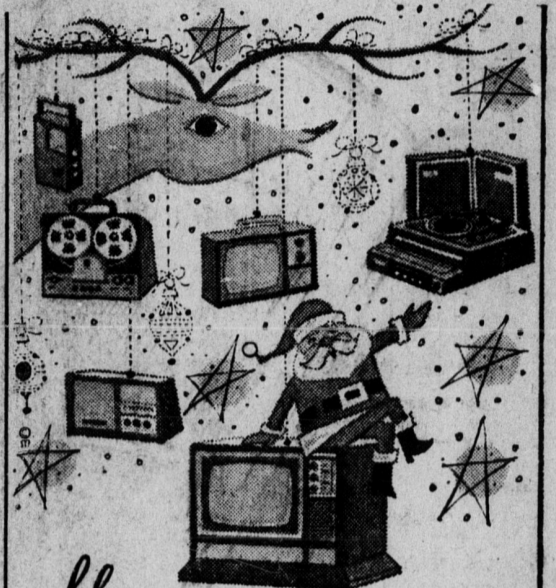
A.—Yes. If you are eligible for training under the GI bill, you may receive vocational counseling, without cost, at your nearest VA office. A counselor will help you to better understand your interests, aptitudes, and abilities, and provide information on occupations you might want to consider.

Fred Jackson's Rites Conducted

Funeral services for Fred Jackson, of Bay St. Louis, Miss., formerly of Kings Mountain, were held Saturday afternoon from Sisk East Chapel in Bessemer City, interment following in Bessemer City Memorial cemetery.

A native of Kings Mountain, he died Thursday morning in a New Orleans, La. hospital. He was son of the late Ed and Louella Smith Jackson of Kings Mountain.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Peggy Gillespie Jackson; one daughter, Mrs. Yates Huntsinger of Dallas; one son, Carl Jackson of Mississippi; one sister, Mrs. Mildred Bagwell of Gastonia; one brother, Woodrow Jackson of Mississippi; and four grandchildren.



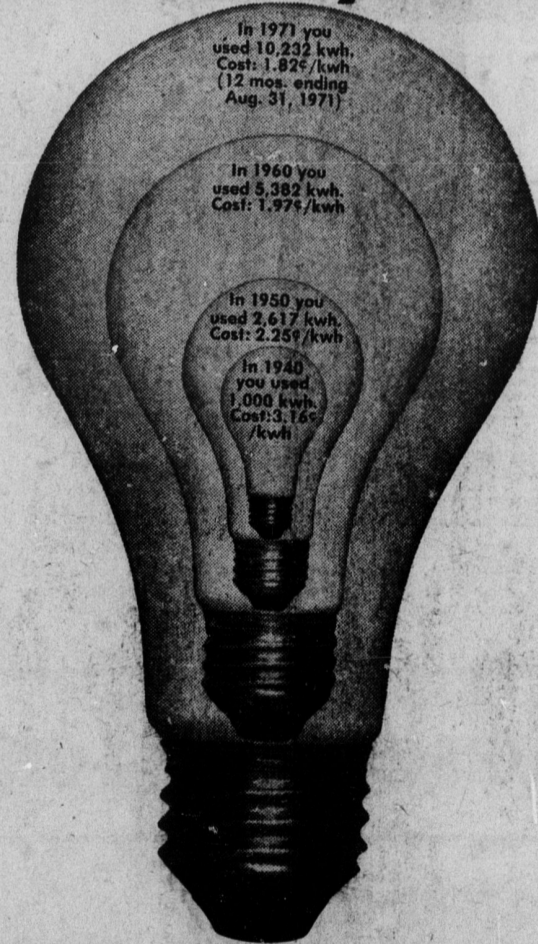
Merry Christmas

Here's hoping that you tune in on a happy and healthy Christmas season. We're grateful for your many

WILSON TV & MUSIC

RADIO-T.V. SALES-SERVICE

**Today you're using
10 times as much electricity
as you did 30 years ago.**



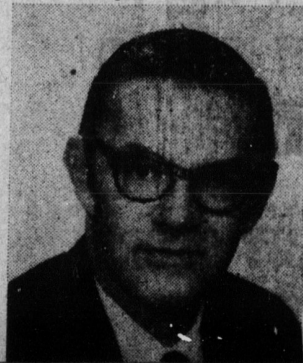
But you're only paying 58%* as much per kilowatthour.

Although the cost of things you buy has been climbing, the unit cost of electricity has dropped—until lately.

Today—even with the recent rate increases—the average Duke Power residential customer pays less per unit than he did 10 years ago or anytime before.

Then why is your electric bill higher? As you see in the above illustration, our average residential customer uses about twice as much electricity per year now as he did only ten years ago, and ten times as much as in 1940.

Most of this increase results from the many necessities we now take for granted. Water heating, for example. Refrigeration. Cooking. Heating and air conditioning.



Also color TV and the more than 100 other electrical products contribute to increased usage and our high standard of living.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for electricity, we're constructing still more generating plants. It's very expensive, but absolutely essential.

We intend to continue to provide all the electricity you need at the lowest possible cost.

Carl Horn, Jr.
Carl Horn, Jr.
President

Duke Power



GREETINGS

IN THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT,
WE JOIN ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL
IN PRAYERS FOR LASTING PEACE.
GRATEFULLY, WE THANK EVERYONE
FOR THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE
THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO US.

PLONK'S

*Your electric bill is based on the number of kilowatt-hours (kwh) you use. One kilowatthour is the amount of electricity required to light ten 100-watt lamps for one hour, or one 100-watt lamp for ten hours.