

SSI Benefits Are Explained

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On January 2, 1974 postmen began delivering a new benefit check to thousands of homes in the United States. This was the month in which Supplemental Security Income, a federal assistance program for the aged, blind and disabled was initiated.

Most of the recipients of the gold-colored check in January, 1974, had been previously receiving an assistance payment from their particular state's public welfare department.

However, the Social Security Administration, selected to administer the new program, had also been busy since about July, 1973, setting up public information programs, taking new claims and establishing eligibility for thousands of recipients who were to receive their first assistance check in January.

There was considerable confusion during that initial six-month period. Many of those who filed for the supplemental income with social security, had never before filed for assistance.

The social security employees in the field were faced with assimilating hundreds of pages of new laws and instructions and converting this information into language which could be easily understood by the applicants.

Now, two years after the program began, it appears that some confusion still exists about the program and its purpose.

One often hears the supplemental security income benefit referred to as supplemental social security. The impression is, that once started, the SSI check will continue with the same regularity as the accustomed social security check. Due to the nature of an assistance benefit however, this is not always the case.

As the word assistance implies, eligibility for a payment

is based entirely upon financial need. Even though one of the basic requirements such as being over age 65 may obviously be met, each individual recipient is unique in this respect.

Therefore, the supplement to which he is entitled could range from as little as \$1.00 to the maximum for an individual of \$157.70 per month.

The amount is determined by his particular circumstances and is subject to immediate change as events occur which effect his circumstances.

We have found that many people are being overpaid and many others underpaid because of their failure to report changes to the social security office.

An example could be the man whose only income is SSI and who moves from the home of a relative into his own house or apartment. He could be entitled to an additional \$52.56 per month, but the adjustment in his monthly check cannot be made unless he reports the change.

The reverse could mean that by moving into someone's home from his own, he is being overpaid by \$52.56 per month. His failure to report could also cause a penalty which would be added to the overpayment and then withheld from future benefits.

The Social Security Administration contacts each recipient of the supplement once a year to determine whether the correct amount is being paid. But its prime concern now is to insure that recipients realize that reporting changes is their responsibility and that waiting for the annual redetermination could mean that badly needed additional income is not received when most needed or that a sizable overpayment will have to be repaid.

Anyone receiving the supplemental income can receive complete reporting information by calling the Reidsville Social Security Office at 349-2356 and asking for pamphlet No. 11.

Scottsboro Employees Give Blood

Employees at the Scottsboro Rug Mill recently participated in an in-plant Bloodmobile visit, with 33 employees donating. This brings the plant's total to 80 donors during the past year, or 40 percent employee participation.

The visit was made available through the local American Red Cross Chapter. Several other area industries also participated.

The Scottsboro plant's top three life-time donors are Roberta Campbell, 24 pints; Bob Durham, 32 pints; and James Guffey, 24 pints.

In photograph at right, Elizabeth Boyd has blood test prior to donating blood. In lower photo, Pauline Potter is giving blood.



Because of the outstanding employee participation at the plant, each employee has been issued a Blood Donor Assurance card which entitles the employee and members of his or her immediate family to receive

blood without obligation to replace or pay for the blood for the period of one year. In order to be eligible for these cards for all employees, 35 percent employee participation is required.



7 Months Old



Samantha Hope Bowling, seven months old, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bowling of Eden. Her father is a weaver at the Karastan Rug Mill. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bowling.

Mr. Bowling is a fixer in the Cotton Carding Department at the Blanket Greige Mill. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Nellie Lowe and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hall. Mr. Hall is a slubber tender at the Bedsread Mill.

Tax Tip

(Continued from Page One) time you finance your house. The amount of the "points" is generally one percent of the mortgage but may vary in different areas.

For example, if you borrowed \$25,000 to finance your home, you probably paid at least \$250 in "points" that are deductible as interest paid on your house mortgage.

If you failed to claim this as a deduction in 1972, 1973 or 1974, or if you have already filed your 1975 tax return, you should file an amended return on Form 1040X and claim a tax refund.

Dividend Voted

Directors of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. voted on March 4 to pay a quarterly dividend of \$.25 per share on March 31 to holders of record March 17.

Grandchildren of Employee

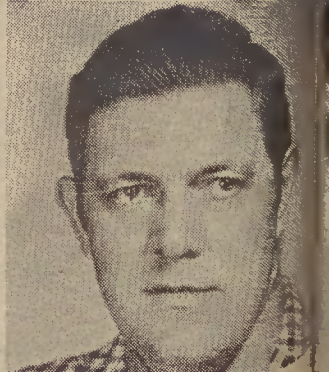


Darla, five years old, and Duane, seven years old, are the children of Mr. and Mrs. David Moorehead of Spartanburg, S.C.



They are the grandchildren of John Moorehead, a picker fixer at the Alexander Sheeting Mill at Forest City.

Joins Fieldcrest



George D. McRae, Jr. recently joined Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., as a shift foreman in the Spinning-Twisting Department at the Laurelcrest Yarn Mill. A native of Hamlet, he is a 1968 graduate of Pembroke State University with a B.S. degree in business administration. He was formerly employed by Southern Asbestos Company at Bennettsville, S.C.

Mr. McRae is married and father of three children. His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Not Enough Years

Due to a typing error, Myrtle R. Harris was shown in the last issue of The Mill Whistle as having 45 years of service when she retired effective February 1. Actually, Mrs. Harris had 47

years of continuous service. She worked the entire time at the Bedsread Mill as a spooler tender or winder. The Mill Whistle regrets the error and is glad to make this correction.