

# Reporting Earnings

People getting Social Security benefits who work are required to estimate their projected earnings as accurately as possible and to report the amount to the Social Security Administration, L.F. Howell, Social Security manager in New Bern, North Carolina, said recently.

Furthermore, people should

revise these estimates, as necessary, during the course of the year.

"Excess earnings under the annual retirement test are the primary cause of overpayments," Howell said. "More than one million people were overpaid in 1983 because of underestimation or failure to report their earnings, and total

overpayments, as a result, amount to more than \$1 billion."

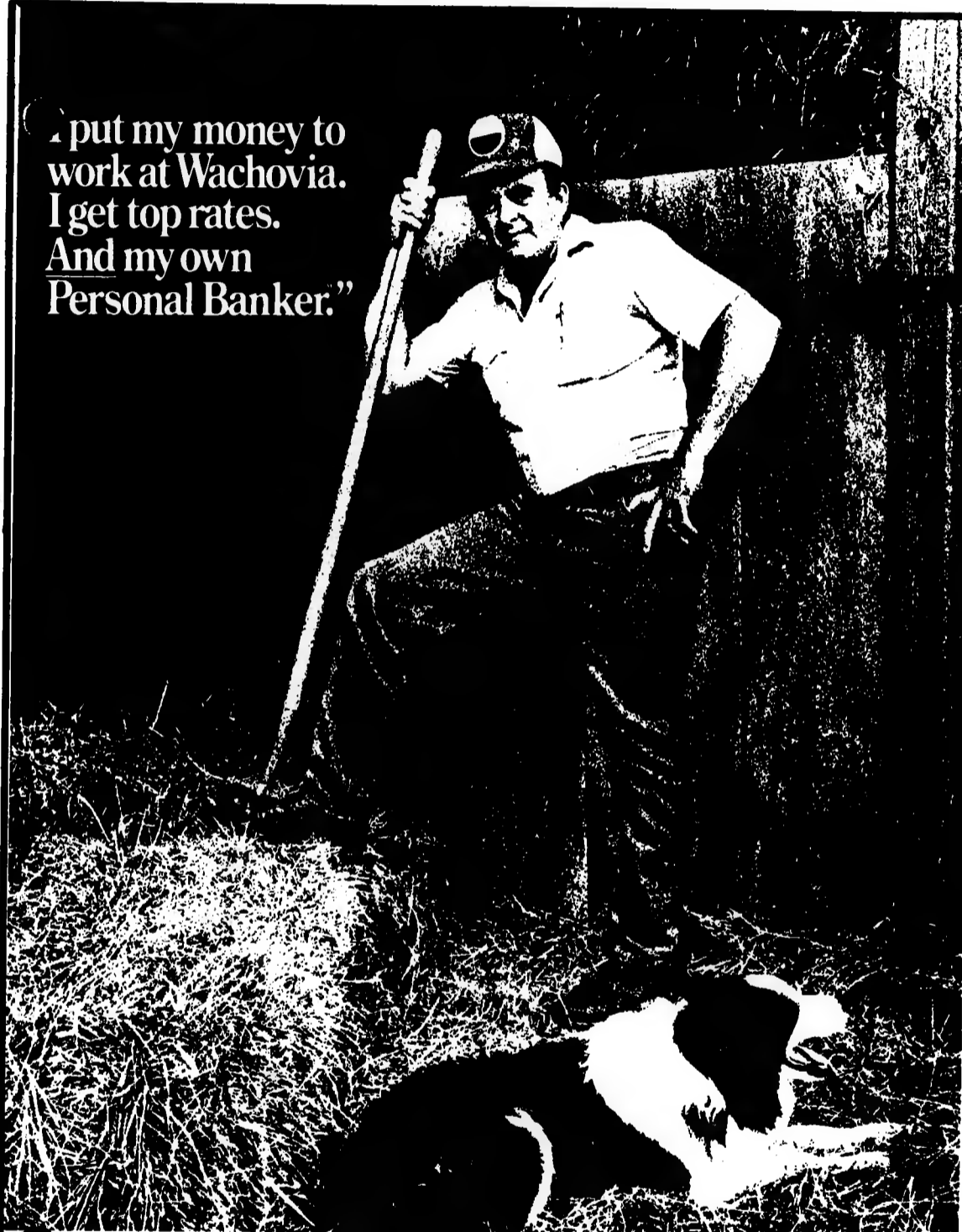
"People must file an annual report of earnings at the end of the taxable year. At that time the amount of benefits due for the year is figured; if all the payments that were due have not been made, the person is paid the appropriate amount."

"On the other hand," Howell said, "if the person is found to

have been overpaid, the amount of the overpayment will be withheld from future benefits or will have to be repaid."

More information about how work affects Social Security benefits can be obtained at the New Bern, North Carolina Social Security office, located at 2822 Neuse Boulevard, New Bern, North Carolina. The telephone number is 637-4101.

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