

SOCIAL SECURITY Questions and Answers

George Dietrich, Field Representative of the Social Security Administration is in Edenton every Thursday and is located in the old Municipal Building.

"Show your medicare card to your doctor where you go for treatment," advises Mr. Wyatt.

Persons 65 or over who are insured under medicare receive an identification card with red, white and blue stripes across the top. The card shows their name, claim number and the date that protection begins under hospital or medical insurance or both.

"Most doctors have a supply of the forms which are used to claim benefits under the medical insurance part of medicare," Wyatt says. "The patient arranges for the payment of the first \$50 of doctor bills in a year. Medicare pays 80 per cent of the reasonable charges of the rest of the covered medical services."

Payment of doctor's bills is handled in either of two ways. The patient and his physician decide which method will be used. Payment may be made (1) directly to the doctor if he agrees to send in the claim; or (2) to the patient who pays the doctor and gets an itemized receipt to claim repayment himself.

If hospitalization is necessary, the physician arranges for the admission of

patient. The beneficiary accepts responsibility for payment of the first \$40 of hospital costs in each spell of illness, and the hospital pays the remainder of the reasonable cost.

Anyone can get additional information about the health insurance from his social security office. For this area, the address is: Social Security Administration, 207 Boyd Avenue, Greenville, N. C. Telephone number is 758-3121. We are open every Saturday morning from 9 to 12 in addition to every week-day from 8:45 to 5:00.

A recent change in the social security law makes it possible for farmers to get social security credit for up to \$1,600 even though they may have had a loss. For taxable years ending before 1966 the most social security credit they could receive, if they had a loss, was \$1,200.

It works this way. Farmers can either report their actual net earnings or use the optional method of figuring their net earnings. If their net earnings exceed \$1,600 they must report the actual net earnings. If their net earnings are less than

New Books At Local Library

New books received this week at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library are:

Wild Heritage by Sally Carrighar—in natural behavior of the other animals we discover much about ourselves.

God Beyond Doubt by C. S. Lewis—an essay in the philosophy of religion.

Death In Rome by Robert Katz—an episode in World War II.

Tell Me, Tell Me by Marianne Moore—new poems and prose.

A Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases in Current English by A. J. Bliss.

The Man Who Knew Kennedy by Vance Bourjaily—this novel begins the day President Kennedy is murdered.

The Bonapartes by David Staction—a 200-year biography of a family from its obscure origins in Corsica to its present-day European and American descendants.

My Appalachia by Rebecca Caudill—a reminiscence.

Enchantment of America books:

Delaware by Allan Carpenter.

Georgia by Allan Carpenter.

Nebraska by Allan Carpenter.

New Mexico by Allan Carpenter.

New York by Allan Carpenter.

Vermont by Allan Carpenter.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON—The President has asked Congress to enact legislation to halt the spread of crime in this country. His remarks were embodied in a crime message delivered to the Congress on February 8th.

The Message on Crime in America comes at a time when public concern over this problem has reached massive proportions. Last week, newspapers in the nation's capital reprinted a letter to the President from an official of one of the largest retail drug concerns operating in the District of Columbia metropolitan area. The company official stated that "in the past 56 weeks" his company's stores had been "the scene of 31 armed robberies and 63 burglaries" resulting in cash thefts of \$116,257.75. Tragically, this company's experience is not an isolated one.

One of the President's recommended anti-crime measures—the Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1967—was introduced in the Senate by Senator McClellan on February 8th. I have co-sponsored this measure which would provide federal assistance to state and local governments to improve law enforcement training and techniques.

The bill represents an important means of upgrading law enforcement activities and would implement the Law Enforcement Assistance Act which Congress enacted in 1965.

Included in the 1967 act would be federal grants to states, cities, regional and metropolitan bodies to assist them in developing plans to improve police, courts and correctional systems. Additional federal grants would be available to approved programs already in effect. Grants for the construction of facilities such as police academy centers and crime laboratories would be available under the act.

The measure calls for an initial \$50 million appropriation and an anticipated request of \$300 million for fiscal year 1969. After that expenditures would depend upon the effectiveness of the act. Considering the magnitude of the problem, the anti-crime funds appear to be the biggest bargain in the administration's budget.

The measure continues to leave law enforcement responsibility in the hands of the state and local governments. It would provide federal aid to the states and communities to prevent crime and protect those who do not want to be mugged, raped or robbed.

Earlier this year, I introduced a constitutional amendment to permit the use of voluntary confessions of the

This Is The Law

By ROBERT E. LEE
For N. C. Bar Association
COMMON LAW

What is the meaning of the term "common law"?

Where there is no statute applicable to determine the merits of a controversy between adverse parties, the common law affords a rule and a guide. It covers the whole range of law not covered by constitutions and statutes.

The great bulk of our legal principles are based upon the common law or legal precedents. Very few legal rules are controlled by statutes, which are enactments of the General Assembly.

The term "common law" in this country is understood to mean the unwritten law of England so far as it is not inconsistent with our constitutions and statutes; it consists of broad and comprehensive principles inspired by reason and a sense of justice and receives its binding force from common consent and immemorial usage "whence the mind of man runneth not to the contrary."

Therefore, it may be said to have its beginning in so remote an antiquity that its source cannot be traced. It is the product of evolution and not legislation. It developed from the customs of the people, crystallized and formed by decisions in litigated cases. The judges endeavored to discover the customs and usages of the people, which they put in writing for future reference.

The common law gets its name from the medieval judicial theory that the law administered by the king's superior courts was the common custom of the realm, as contrasted with the custom of the local jurisdictions. Just prior to the Norman conquest of England in 1066, England was covered with a network of local courts. Every lord of a manor, every county, every shire, every village had some sort of a court.

The law dispensed in one part of England was often different from that dispensed in another part. The customs of the communities differed. The lord of one manorial court would often have a different conception of law from one in another.

Conservation and Development commercial fishing license will be required for commercial fishing.

The Norman kings unified England and through the establishment of royal courts gave it a law that was common to all England. Hence, the term "common law"—a system of jurisprudence that was common to all the people of England.

The English people became very proud of this common law. Whenever they left England to establish colonies in America, they carried with them the common law, which was the only system of law they were acquainted with. As a consequence, the common law of England became also the common law of the United States.

A fundamental doctrine of the common law is that once a court has laid down a principle of law as applicable to a certain state of facts, it will adhere to that principle and apply it to all future cases where the facts are substantially the same. Adherence to judicial precedents is a cardinal doctrine in our jurisprudence.

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\$1,600 and their gross earnings exceed \$600 they can get social security credit for two-thirds of their gross farm income between \$600 and \$2,400. This is known as the optional method.

For example, if a farmer had gross profits of \$3,600 but had a net profit of \$800 or even a loss, he could use the optional method to figure his social security and get credit for \$1,600 by reporting two-thirds of his first \$2,400 gross earnings. If this same farmer had net earnings of over \$1,600 he would have to report his actual net earnings.

Only farmers can use this optional method. Other self-employed persons cannot get any social security credit if their net earnings are below \$400 for the year. Congress made this exception because farmers' net earnings depend upon many uncontrollable factors such as prices they get for their products, crop failures due to drought and hail.

Since a person's retirement benefits or survivors benefits are determined by the amount of earnings subject to social security tax, this is an important change in the law. The monthly social security benefit rate is figured on a certain amount of yearly earnings dependent on the year of birth and death. Because of this fixed number of years used to figure the benefits it is now possible for many farmers now receiving social security benefits to get an increase in their monthly rate by reporting earnings of \$1,600 in 1966 and later years. The \$1,600 year would be substituted for a lower year.

Farmers are urged to visit the social security office at 207 Boyd Avenue, Greenville, if they desire further information. Pamphlet number OASI-25d "Special Information For Self-Employed Farmers" contains a more detailed explanation.

In addition to weekly hours of 8:45 A. M. to 5 P. M. Monday through Friday, the office is now open on Saturday mornings from 9 A. M. to 12 noon.

Church Dogs
(CFN)—In ancient Britain, dogs were permitted in many churches, reports the Purina Pet Care Center. Small doors cut in the main door permitted the animals to enter at will.

Hunting Law Hearing Slated

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will have a public hearing in Edenton on the establishment of hunting regulations for the 1967-68 season.

The district meeting will be held at 7:30 P. M., May 26, at Chowan County Court House.

The commission will meet on April 25 to consider proposed changes in hunting regulations for presentation at the May public hearings.

Hugh G. Chatham of Elkin, textile manufacturer and sportsman, was recently elected as chairman of the commission. He succeeds James A. Bridger of Elizabethtown.

During the reorganization meeting in Raleigh last week, the Wildlife Resources Commission voted formal approval of an existing commission policy to require fresh water fishing licenses in certain coastal waters where both sport and commercial fishing occurs, but which have not been specifically designated as inland waters. In these waters a Wildlife Resources Commission license will be required for hook and line fishing while a Department of Con-

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