

# Chowan County Social Service Department Administers Aid Otha B. Garrett

(This is the third in a series of articles on social services in Chowan County. The last article explained the first of three monthly financial aid programs—Aid to the Aged. Today's article will present the facts about financial Aid to the Disabled).

By **ROBERT HENDRIX**  
Director

There are certain citizens of Chowan County who either from birth or later on in life find that they are unable to earn a livelihood because of an injury or illness that has rendered them disabled either physically or mentally to be employed.

The Chowan County Department of Social Services administers a program of financial assistance to meet monthly basic maintenance expenses for these people who meet certain eligibility requirements.

The Aid to the Disabled

program is a federal program which is financed with approximately 70 per cent federal funds. The remainder is appropriated from state and county funds in North Carolina.

To be eligible a person must be at least 18 years old and under 65; he must be in need of the essential requirements such as food, shelter, clothing and other necessary items; he must not be living in a public institution or a patient in an institution for tuberculosis or mental disease or a patient in a medical institution as the result of having tuberculosis or psychosis.

He must be determined totally and permanently disabled by his physician and the Medical Review Team of the State Department of Social Services. State law permits counties

on an optional basis to establish a Medical Review Board who may review all medical examinations and certify their findings of disability to the State Medical Review Team who still have the final responsibility of determination. Chowan County does not have a local Medical Review Board.

The law defines a permanently and totally disabled person as "one who because of a mental or physical impairment is according to the present diagnosis substantially precluded from doing any work. The impairment must be of major importance and must be a condition not likely to improve or which will continue through the lifetime of the individual."

In addition to the above eligibility requirements he must agree to having a lien on any real property he owns or acquires. The said property to be sold at his death and the government refunded the amount paid him during his lifetime.

He does not have to be completely without money to establish his need. If he is living alone he may have up to \$500 reserve money or personal property. If a couple is living together, they may have up to \$700 reserve.

When people apply for this assistance at the Chowan County Department of Social Services, a worker will help prepare a budget for them, using the standard budget allowances established by the State Board of Social Services. Local departments cannot allow amounts above these established allowances.

The maximum monthly allowance for one person is \$35.50 for necessities which include food, clothing, medicine chest supplies, household supplies, household equipment and personal expenses.

The actual cost of rent or home ownership and all utilities is allowed up to a maximum of \$60 per month. An allowance up to \$10 is also allowed for incidental medical expenses. This means the total maximum monthly allowance for an elderly person living alone would be \$105.50. If they have any other income, it is deducted from the maximum allowance and their monthly check would be for the difference. If their income is above these maximum allowances, they would be ineligible for assistance.

These allowances have been increased but very little since 1952. The State Department of Social Services requested from the General Assembly funds for a 20 per cent increase in the basic items and an increase of \$5 per month for utilities. This request was not approved.

Under certain circumstances where it is found necessary that the recipient needs attendant or nursing care at home, up to \$80 per month may be included in the budget for this purpose.

In other cases it becomes necessary that some of these recipients be placed in a group care facility. The Department of Social Services can allow up to \$170 for boarding home care and \$245 for nursing home care. Increases in these amounts are also being requested from the General Assembly.

Each person receiving Aid to the Disabled is also provided with medical and dental care, physician's fees, certain dental care and unlimited prescribed drugs. He is given an identification card which entitles him to hospitalization, outpatient care, physician's fees, certain dental care and unlimited prescribed drugs. He must pay the first \$1 for each prescription.

Periodic reviews are con-

ducted to determine if recipients of this service are still eligible. They have the responsibility of reporting any change in their situation to the county department of social services. Every applicant for Aid to the Disabled is referred to a vocational rehabilitation counselor to determine if there is a possibility that they may be rehabilitated.

Many other services other than financial assistance are offered to the county's disabled citizens by the Department of Social Services. The case worker is always interested in the total welfare of the individual.

At present there are 45 persons receiving monthly Aid to the Disabled assistance in Chowan County. The average monthly payment is \$56.35. There are 23,300 persons in the state receiving this assistance this past fiscal year.

Any applicant or recipient who feels that the local department of social services has acted improperly in regard to a decision made on his case may appeal to the State Board of Allotments and Appeal. If he is not satisfied with this board's decision, he may take his case to Superior Court for judicial review.

At the same time any applicant or recipient may be prosecuted for a misdemeanor when he has provided fraudulent information in order to receive or continue to receive financial assistance.

The next article in this series on social services will explain the Aid to Families with Dependent Children financial assistance program.

## Otha B. Garrett Taken In Death

Otha Bertel Garrett, 71, of Perquimans County, died Tuesday in Chowan Hospital following an illness of several weeks. He was a retired farmer.

Mr. Garrett was born January 18, 1898, son of the late William Henry and Nettie Humphlett Garrett. He was married to Mrs. Betty Pierce Garrett.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons: Gilbert O. and William H. Garrett, both of Edenton; James C. Garrett of Portsmouth, Va., and Robert L. Garrett of Beale Air Force Base in California; two daughters: Mrs. Shirley Byrum of Elizabeth City and Mrs. Hazel Byrum of Edenton; two brothers: Luther Garrett of Portsmouth, Va., and Irvin Garrett of York, Pa.; two sisters: Mrs. Pauline Pritchett and Mrs. Virginia Jones, both of Elizabeth City; and 17 grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Williford Memorial Chapel. Burial will be in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

If it were not for the company of fools, a witty man would often be greatly at a loss.

—La Rochefoucauld.

widow of a veteran who died of a service-connected condition may receive dependency and indemnity compensation regardless of her income.

## Herald Legals

**Administrator's Notice**  
Having qualified as Administrator, CTA of the estate of J. H. Byrum, late of Chowan County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons holding claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of February, 1970, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of August, 1969.

Garland H. Asbell,  
Administrator CTA of  
The Estate of J. H.  
Byrum, Deceased.  
W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
Aug 14, 21, 28, Sep 4

## Area Soldier Is Given Command Post

Continued from Page 5  
The colonel's decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and the Vietnam Honor Medal First Class.

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## Notice To Administrators, Executors and Guardians!

The law requires an ANNUAL ACCOUNT to be made each year and an INVENTORY to be filed within 90 days after qualifying. If your Annual Account, Inventory or Final Account are past due, we respectfully urge that you file same at once, as we are required to report all such cases to the Grand Jury, which will convene at the March term of Chowan County Superior Court, September 8th.

YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE  
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

**LENA M. LEARY**  
Clerk of Superior Court

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