Social Security

Information

By Lee Wallie new concept — the "year of retirement" — to the Social Security program which will be important to workers who are now retiring and who will do so in the future.

This new concept comes as part of the changes made in the annual test of eargs, the measure used to ecide if a person receiving Social Security benefits can continue to get them while

The new test provides that, except in the "year of retirement", a person's Social Security benefit will be reduced \$1 for each \$2 of earnings above the annual

The 1978 annual limit is \$4,000 for people 65 and over, and \$3,240 for people under

Because it would be unfair to workers retiring in the middle of the year to apply only the annual test of earnings, the "year of retirement" was adopted.

The "year of retirement" is the first year in which annual earnings exceed the annual limit, during which there is a month the person is both eligible for monthly benefits and neither earns more than the monthly limit in wages nor performs substantial services in selfemployment.

The 1978 monthly limit is \$334 for people 65 and over \$270 for people under 65.

During the year of retirement, a person can receive benefits based on the montly measure.

After the year of retirement, benefit payments will be based only on annual earnings.

Those interested can get more information about the annual earnings test by calling their local Social Security office.

The Elizabeth City Social Security office is located at 111 Jordan Plaza next to Soughgate Mall (phone 338-2161) and is open 9:00 to 4:30 weekdays.

Report From **Social Services**

More than 10 per cent of the residents of Chowan County benefited from the food stamp program in April, according to a report released Monday by Mrs. Hazel S. Elliott, social worker-in-charge of the Department of Social Services.

The report showed 458 cases were certified to participate in the program. Of this number, 415 paid \$20,391.75 and received stamps valued at \$58,317 and included 1,283 people.

Other statistical data included:

Aid to The Aged - 14 cases, \$2,434 grant, \$174 average.

Aid to Families With Dependent Children - 179

cases, \$25,965 grant. Aid to The Disabled -Eight cases, \$1,575 grant,

\$197 average. Aid to The Blind - Eight

cases, \$943 grant, \$118 average.

General Assistance -

Three cases, \$57.16 grant. Hospital, in-patient

services, \$8,251.26; outpatient services, \$2,221.46.

Pharmacy services, \$4,895.08; ambulance services, \$72.50; dental services, \$130.32; physician services, \$8,592.85; and home health services, \$578.

Also, mental health clinics, \$672; health department family planning, \$2,513; optical sup-plies, \$244.82; intermediate facility, mental retardation center, \$2,966.04; ICF, general, \$18,268.11; and skilled ursing, \$14,465.39.

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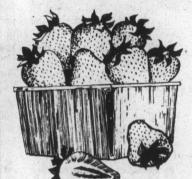
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