

Employers Can Help Employees

Many potential beneficiaries under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program lose benefits because they fail to file for them promptly. This is according to a recent announcement by Mr. Louis H. Clement, manager of the Salisbury, N. C. Social Security Administration Field Office.

Mr. Clement stated that possibly the reason potential beneficiaries failed to claim benefits due them was because they did not realize their rights. The Social Security Administration has no way of knowing when a worker retires either temporarily or permanently, he added.

The employer has a valid interest in seeing to it that his employees and their families receive the benefits for which they have shared in paying. To inform each of his employees of retirement age that they can claim benefits for any months that they earn less than \$15.00, would seem to be an integral part of good industrial relations.

Retired workers are not the only persons losing benefits. Survivors of deceased workers have

also lost benefits and are losing benefits. Here again the employer may help prevent such loss by letting the survivor of a deceased employee, regardless of the latter's age, know that he, or she, should contact the nearest social security field office to file a claim immediately, or within three months at most.

Geese Control Strawberry Weeds

By CARL E. VANDEMAN (Assistant County Agent)

Twenty years before scientific men had developed 2,4-D as a weed killer, strawberry growers in Kentucky were controlling the dreaded weed, crabgrass, in their newly-set strawberry fields by forcing geese to pasture in the fields and extending the pasture period through August and September.

Just why a goose will eat tender crabgrass, saw briars, pursley, pig weeds, and, in fact, most any common weed pest and yet will not eat the foliage of a strawberry plant, remains the \$64.00 question.

A successful commercial grower recently stated that he con-

sidered eight geese on a two-acre patch of berries the equivalent of one man with a hoe working two-thirds of the time during the growing season.

A portable fence of two-inch mesh poultry wire, 30 inches high, stretched around the strawberry area and supported with stakes of about broomhandle size (or, in farm language, using a tobacco stick with one end forced into the ground a foot deep) confines the geese to the field. This fence is usually placed at the time the berries are planted in March, and four or five geese per acre are put in the enclosure.

The geese prefer to do their feeding on the tender grass from late afternoon through the evening, and often during moonlight nights they will be found roving over the field in search of tender grass, especially crabgrass.

A simple range shelter about three feet high, consisting of four posts with crossbars for supporting a covering of straw or tree branches, is required to provide shade for the geese. An abundant supply of drinking water is necessary. This is usually provided by a 50 gallon oil drum equipped with a spigot that lets the water drip throughout the 24 hours into an open vessel. A subsistence ration of a small amount of shelled corn is usually furnished.

The foregoing article was written by Horticulturist W. W. Magill, of Lexington, Ky., and published in the American Fruit Grower, a leading fruit magazine.

Congressmen On Wide Junket To East Asia

Monroe.—Congressman Deane and five other members of the House start on a Far East journey. The alleged purpose is to gather information. But like other congressional junkets the real purpose is to give the members a grand trip at the tax payers expense. The tens of thousands that these trips and other things that the congressmen do for themselves help to make up the billions that are spent unnecessarily and are part of the reason that taxes never come down and the government is going into the red at a time when the revenue laws are still on a war time basis. The article sent out from Washington describing the trip for 6 congressmen and what they expect to do is comical. Imagine them going to all these far flung countries in three or four weeks gaining any information that would be worth a nickel on all these multiplied subjects, especially talking to natives whose languages they don't know a word of. And imagine six unknown congressmen putting General MacArthur on the grill! The article sent out reads as follows:

Description of The Trip
Congressman Charles B. Deane of the Eighth Congressional District is one of six members of Congress composing a select committee appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sam Rayburn, to investigate occupational forces and expenditures of United States government funds on rehabilitation and war damage in the Far East. This Committee is scheduled to leave Tuesday, August 30th, to see how wisely the dollars of American taxpayers are being spent in Alaska, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and the U. S. Mandated Islands.

Ben Norris, a Watauga County 4-H Club boy, consigned the top ram in the sixth annual Purebred Ram Sale held at Boone recently. The animal brought \$87.50, according to L. I. Case, in charge of animal husbandry extension at State College.

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