



Reginald Hubbard

...Following footsteps of Johnson and Leatherman

AARP Announces Toll-Free Number To Answer Questions About Medicare

Washington, DC - The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has announced it will operate a toll-free number North Carolina residents can call with questions about recent changes in Medicare. The Info-Line, 1-800-527-5226, will start taking calls on November 3.

According to AARP board member and Clinton, NC, resident, Dr. Monroe Gilmore, the association is offering the free Info Line in response to the growing number of questions it has received since Medicare adopted a new system for reimbursing hospitals for treatment.

Workshop

The Exceptional Children's Advocacy Council will sponsor a free workshop for training parents of exceptional children on Saturday, November 1, at St. Mark's Center, located at 601 N. Graham St., beginning at 9 a.m. The workshop will provide answers to the questions that parents may have about educating their special child.

This new system, called Prospective Payment, is designed to help control health costs. In the process, it has stimulated some changes in patient care, including shorter hospital stays and more surgery performed outside the hospital.

"We're concerned that these changes are confusing - and sometimes even costly - for older patients who don't know how the system works," Gilmore said. "We're happy to be able to offer this service to the state's 688,000 Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and friends."

Gilmore said the Prospective Info-Line has the support of the N.C. State Medical Society and the state's Peer Review Organization (PRO), a group of physicians that oversees the health care of North Carolina's Medicare patients.

"It's important that older people know their rights as Medicare patients," Gilmore said. "Becoming an informed patient is the most important thing people can do to ensure they receive quality care."

Info Line staffers can answer questions about changes in hospital care and tell callers how to exercise their rights. Staffers will follow up each call with a letter listing the caller's questions and providing AARP's answers in writing.

Gilmore said the Info Line cannot handle individual complaints on behalf of callers, refer callers to doctors or provide medical or legal advice.

AARP plans to offer this toll-free number exclusively in North Carolina and Ohio through February 1987. Based on interest in these two states, AARP will determine whether to offer the service nationwide.

The Info-Line will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Info Line is part of AARP's national Health Care Campaign, an ongoing effort to reduce health costs and maintain quality care for all Americans.

AARP, with more than 22 million members nationwide, is the country's largest association of people 50 years and older.

Hubbard Opens Auto Dealership

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

"Click, ruh, ruh," is this a familiar sound? Well, if your battery is weak and your car is suffering from other ailments, you should be steering your wheels towards Metrolina Dodge at 8525 South Boulevard (across from Lance Packing).

Charlotte's fourth black auto dealership is owned by Reginald T. Hubbard, and opened October 20. Hubbard, a former Sears & Roebuck executive, is determined to make things happen in the black community. "I'm going to support the black community regardless if it supports my business or not," asserted Hubbard, reclining in his spacious office. "As a thriving dealership, I can support the black community by advertising in black newspapers, radio stations, and other ways," mentioned Hubbard, who strongly believes in his service department.

"Our goal is to offer the community good prices, excellent service and satisfaction. Dodge has been flanked as one of the fastest growing makes of automobiles and it also has the third highest volume nameplate in the nation," he enlightened.

A native of Clearwater, Florida, the conscientious car dealer has his sights on a bright future in Charlotte. "I'm ree! excited about the business," he related. There are already two other successful black dealerships. But this city doesn't have a high percentage level of blacks which let's me know that the whites here respect good businesses."

The Queen City's other black-owned auto dealerships are Sam Johnson Lincoln Mercury, Inc., and Metro Lincoln Mercury Inc. (both owned by Sam Johnson), and Omar Leatherman, who owns South Boulevard Chrysler-Plymouth Inc., located a few blocks down the street

from Metrolina Dodge.

"I think it makes no difference that we are located down the street from another black dealership," responded Hubbard. "White dealers operate down the street from each other, so why can't we? I'm a car dealer who is here to stay. My mother always said, 'No guts, no glory.'"

The oldest of three, Hubbard began working for Sears after earning a business management degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa. "The enticement to leave Sears was because owning your own business is financially rewarding and it's also a lot of fun," he pointed out. "The car business is very good when it's good, but it can also be very bad for business. Some dealers have a poor reputation for their service and I think they suffer the most during slow periods."

The self-motivated businessman is married to Iris Small Hubbard and has four boys.

The Hubbards are former members of the New Zion Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "We have visited a few churches in town but we are still searching for a church home."

Since moving to Charlotte on September 1, Hubbard has been impressed with the city's appearance. "Charlotte is a very clean city and I view it as the up and coming Atlanta."

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