

SOCIAL SECURITY

Questions And Answers

By D. H. BUTLER  
Field Representative

Q. Recently, a couple of months before I was 65, I signed up for both parts of Medicare. Now I wish you'd tell me how to get Medicare payment on my medical bills. My doctor says he doesn't usually send in the bills to have the payment made direct to him.

A. In the back of your Medicare Handbook you'll find a copy of the Request for Payment form, or you can ask for a copy at your doctor's office or, of course, at the Social Security office.

You fill out, and sign, the top part of the form. Be sure to copy your name and number exactly as they appear on your Medicare card, and complete the other simple items carefully and accurately.

Your doctor can either fill out the bottom part of the form or give you an itemized bill showing the date, place, brief description and charge for each service rendered, and the total charge. You will send in the form along with the itemized bills, paid or unpaid. But be sure that your full name and your Medicare number are on each bill attached to the Request for Payment form.

Send this Medicare claim to the appropriate medical insurance carrier (the insurance company that handles the Medicare payments in the area where you received the medical services). See pages 27-29 of your Handbook for the name and address of the Medicare carrier, or your doctor's office or the Social Security office can give you

this information.

If the medical services were received in North Carolina, send it to Medicare "B" Division, Prudential Insurance Company of America, P. O. Box 1482 High Point, N. C. 27261.

If you want more information, or need help in filling out the form, get in touch with our office or one of our traveling representatives.

Q. I am 64 and plan to retire on my 65th birthday. When should I apply for my retirement benefits, and what records or proofs should I take to the Social Security office?

A. You should apply 2 or 3 months before your 65th birthday. Take an old record or two of your age, and your last year's tax return or W-2 form.

Assuming you don't have an original birth certificate—take any old record you have or can readily secure that shows your date of birth or age. Your Social Security office can tell you if you need anything else, and if necessary will help you obtain certain hard-to-get documents.

Q. As I am to retire soon at age 65, I wonder what benefit, if any, my wife can get. She has never worked on a job covered by Social Security, and our children are all grown and married.

A. Your wife will be eligible for an unreduced benefit at age 65 (one-half of your own full benefit amount), or a reduced benefit as early as age 62.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Argonaut's ship
5. Identical
9. Fish
10. Desire greatly
12. Comfort
13. Commando for one
14. Region
15. Single unit
16. Sun god
17. Frickly or stinging plants
20. Inflorescence
23. Narrow inlet
25. Affirms
26. Stone-worker
28. Gain
29. Father or mother
30. Allure
33. Guide's lowest note
34. Consume
35. Little island
39. Monsters
41. Spoke
42. Crowd
43. Washes
44. Headland
45. Duck

DOWN

1. Sandbar
2. Flower
3. Gatherer
4. Chemical ending
6. Meager
8. Sprites
7. Issued
8. Turning outward
9. Beverage
11. Epoch
18. Method of learning
18. Printers' measure of press
19. Scottish Gaelic
20. Uncooked
21. Flying
22. Bronze coin
24. Summed up
26. Son of
27. Craftsman
29. Caravan
31. Waits upon
32. Schedule
33. Excitement
36. River in Yugoslavia
37. Falsehoods
38. Mr. Sullivan and namesake
40. Part of "to be"
43. Music note

Compiling List Of All Persons 100 Years Old Or Older Here

The local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, in cooperation with Governor Scott's Coordinating Council on Aging, is trying to locate all persons who are 100 years old or older who live in Transylvania.

According to Rev. Ernest Barnes, the local president, the names with other information can be turned in to him or forms can be filled out at The Transylvania Times office.

Information needed includes the following:

- Name
- Address
- Birth date
- Race and
- Sex.

Mr. Barnes can be reached at his residence on Franklin street or at 883-8483.

When you think of preparations, think of VARNER'S, etc.

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN

From  
**ALMAR FARM**  
In Transylvania  
BY CAL CARPENTER

(This continues my story about Dr. J. B. Ewing, a colorful mountain physician who practiced in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancy counties in the early 1900's.)

The railroad, even today, is an exceptional example of engineering; in 1899 it was considered a wonder.

From Johnson City to Chesto, it kept to the valleys paralleling the hazy ridges in a northeast direction. The elevation rose gradually and the engine ahead negotiated these foothills with ease, puffing on at a respectable speed despite the fourteen cars snaking out behind it. But from Chesto on, things were different. At Chesto a second engine attached itself to the rear of the train and joined the one ahead with mighty puffings. A short time later, the train was climbing the mountains in earnest.

The railroad became a demented snake, curving and recurving, constantly searching for gentler grades and gaps. It was soon a narrow cut blasted out of the steep mountainsides; wandering, looping back on itself, but ever climbing. The occasional streams were now crossed on spindly-legged trestles, with oftimes a hundred feet between the tracks and rocky stream beds below. And with every ridge, hogback, shoulder, where the view was unobstructed, the distant peaks of the Smokies came closer, dark blue and vaguely out of focus in the characteristic haze from which the mountains get their name.

Passengers' ears popped, the air became cooler. J. B. Ewing pulled his coat tighter around him. He was now in the mountains. Where would he go from here?

I think it was at this time he took a last look at the first forty years of his life like a picture in a darkened, empty room; then he firmly closed and locked that door forever. For although he would later set down the things about his ancestry he thought his new family should know — going all the way back to the times depicted by Sir Walter Scott in "The Lady of the Lake"—he gave no details of his own life those first 40 years. He later mentioned a few things casually, almost in passing; but as far as details of his past life are concerned, he might have been born on that train.

For the sake of completeness, I shall mention what we know of his past here. Not that it is important, for it is not; unless we concede that it was a part of the process that molded the man. Be that as it may, it is not the process that made him in which we are most interested. There is more than enough to hold our interest in the man himself as he was known those last 36 years of his life — as a country doctor in the hills of North Carolina.

He was born in Buchanan County, West Virginia. He was taken to Chester County, Pennsylvania by his mother when he was three days old, where he was reared by his grandfather. Of his father, we know nothing.

He attended public schools in Chester County and went to college at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia. We have no dates during this period, but we know he was married sometime in the perhaps 15 years after completing his medical school and before coming to Western North Carolina.

Six months after he was married, both he and his bride were taken with typhoid fever. While he was unconscious, fighting for his life, his wife died. It was not until after her burial that he was told of her loss. This is about all we know of what must have been at one and the same time the happiest and the most tragic period of his life.

Sometime after his wife's death, he moved to Tus-

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