

SSA Heads Hear Views

Over 300 representatives of "the public" affected by the nation's social security system recently met in Atlanta for a two-day meeting with top-ranking officials of the Social Security Administration. Several representatives from the Fayetteville area attended the meeting.

At SSA's invitation, they had come as spokesmen for the many people they collectively represent -- the aged and disabled; the medically and financially needy; women's and minority groups; taxpayers,

consumers and trade unions among others. Their views of everything from proposed changes in social security laws and how to finance these changes to suggestions for improving SSA's service to the public. One of the subjects was the need for better methods of reaching and educating the public. This newspaper is one of the ways we try to meet this need. Of course, other methods are used as well.

Many recommendations came out of this meeting through a series of forum discussion group which talked about Medicare/Medicaid, public information, SSA benefits, eligibility and amounts, service to public, disability, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), due process and individual rights, and financing.

The social security district office in Fayetteville will be conducting public forums along these same lines to begin in Dec. or Jan. Since our office serves the counties of Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore and Sampson, meetings will either be held in each county or representatives from each county will be invited to a meeting in Fayetteville. Lawton Rogers, the assistant manager is heading up the arrangements for the forums. If interested, please contact him by writing PO Box 1908, Fayetteville, N.C. 28302.

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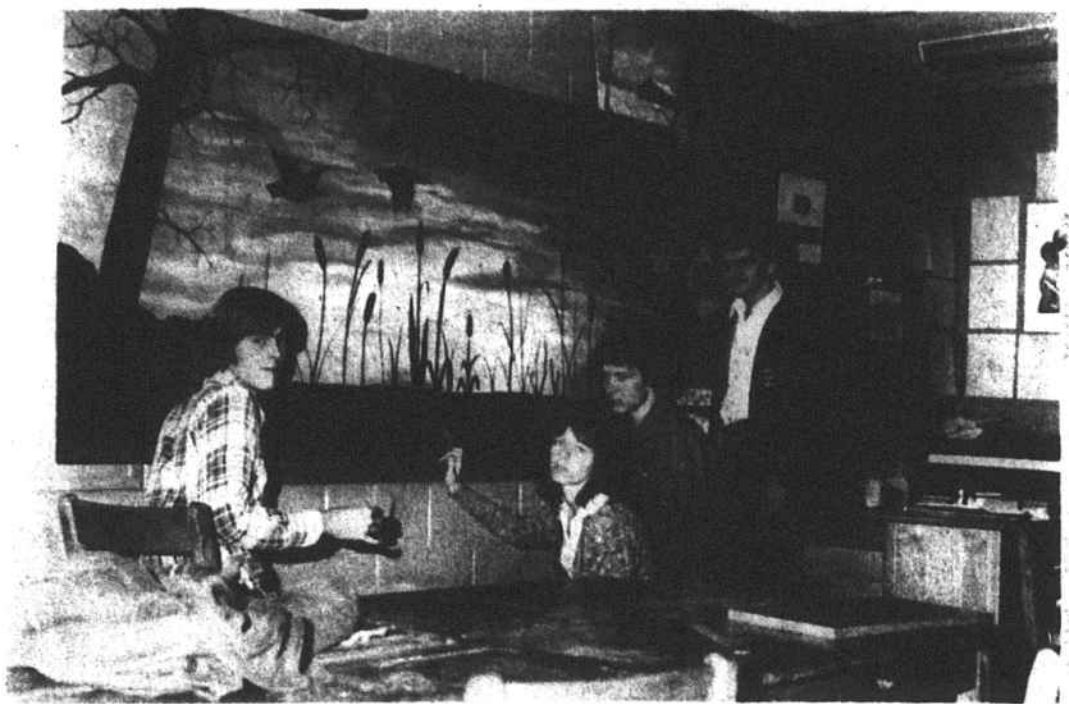
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MURAL -- Students at Hoke High painted the mural pictured here to hang in the Hoke County Mental Health Center. Clyde Jacobs, art instructor at the high school, supervised the project. The mural will be on display during the Center's open house on Sunday. Pictured are: Richard Jones [left], Leaza Atkinson [center], Bob Lancaster [inside right] and Darrell Dees [right]. [Photo by C. Wasko]

Lumber Bridge News

By Lib Sumner

A small number attended the Baptist Church Sunday. The sermon "The Happy Heart" was given by the pastor, Stacy A. Wells.

BAKE SALE

The Bake Sale held on November 19, by the Ladies Auxiliary at The Town Hall was attended by a good crowd. The money collected, \$240.00 will be used in building a new kitchen at the Fire Station. Appreciation is extended to everyone who baked cakes, pies and breads to make the sale a success.

Colonel and Mrs. R.R. Weber spent Thanksgiving in Gaffney, South Carolina with their daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Irvin.

Mr. and Mrs. George Harris of Fayetteville visited Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Clark Thanksgiving evening.

Mrs. A.F. Tolar and Mr. and Mrs. Worth Williford of Fayetteville were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Courtney and children, Michelle and Kim in Fayetteville on Thursday.

Misses Lib and Lois Sumner spent Sunday evening with their sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fulford J. McMillan of Rt. 1, Raeford.

Mrs. James A. Wyatt spent several days this week with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Byrd in Mullins, S.C. Mrs. Boyd was in Marion Hospital, but was able to go home Wednesday.

Clinton Jackson came home from McCain Hospital on Thursday and is getting along much better.

Rev. and Mrs. Stewart Smith and sons of Charlotte arrived Wednesday to spend Thanksgiving with his mother, Mrs. Ida Smith and sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Thompson and Chris. On Wednesday night Stewart became ill and was rushed to Southeastern General Hospital, a case of kidney colic. He was able to come back to his mother's on Friday. Stewart is a former pastor of Lumber Bridge Baptist Church.

Mrs. Brenda Tyner is seriously ill at home. Her mother is spending some time with her.

Mrs. J.C. Chason is visiting her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Nance in Siler City.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Caddell of Raleigh spent Thanksgiving with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Caddell.

Mrs. Ethel D. Gibson's Thanksgiving guests were Mr. and Mrs.

S.E. Sumner, Miss Pamela Sumner, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Sumner of Fayetteville, Mr. and Mrs. M.S. Gibson, Joy and Rick, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Bennett and children, Yvette, Brandon and Kyle of Wilmington and Mrs. Rick McMillan, Kimberly and Kristy of Arabia.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin Clifton, Jr. and their cousin, Mrs. Mella Shook of Red Springs enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at the K&W Restaurant in Fayetteville.

Sgt. and Mrs. Billy Schell and daughters, Debbie Lyn and Billie Sue of Goldsboro visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Schell on Thursday.

Mrs. Ethel D. Gibson spent several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Freeman in Fayetteville. Mrs. Freeman is able to be up after surgery at Cape Fear Valley Hospital two weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Rob Schoch and Jeffrey of Vanceboro spent the weekend of November 12 with her mother, Mrs. Hunter Forbes. On Sunday Mrs. Schoch, Mrs. Elbert Forbes and Mrs. Homer Terry surprised Mrs. Forbes with a birthday dinner. During the day Mrs. Schoch had the misfortune of hurting her back, so Mrs. Forbes went home with them and Mrs. Schoch has been in Craven County Hospital for the past two weeks. Another accident, Mrs. Forbes sprained her left ankle and came home last Wednesday.

The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church will meet December 3 in the Stamps Fellowship Hall to pack "goodie" boxes to mail to the college students from this community.

The Christmas Cantata is to be presented December 11th at five o'clock in the afternoon at the Lumber Bridge Presbyterian Church. The members are from Rex and Lumber Bridge Presbyterian and Lumber Bridge Baptist Churches. Mrs. Jimmy Maxwell is in charge of the program. The public is cordially invited to attend this special event in our area.

Colon J. Ammons received a telephone call from a friend last Tuesday night, whom he had not seen or heard from in 32 years. Mr. and Mrs. Tolliner J. Brown of Memphis, Tennessee were vacationing in Washington, Virginia and North Carolina. Ammons and Brown served in the U.S. Army under Gen. Patton in England,

France and Germany for over two years and had not seen one another since 1945. They had lunch Wednesday at Ft. Bragg.

Colonel F.R. Weber was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the N.C. Conservation Union at their meeting the weekend of Nov. 12, in The Colonial Inn, Chapel Hill. He was also elected to the office of Corresponding Secretary of the Board. Colonel and Mrs. Weber attended the UNC Play-makers' performance of Woody Allen's "Play it again Sam" while in Chapel Hill.

GYM RENOVATION PLANS DETAILED AT LUMBER BRIDGE

On Thursday, November 17, Stacy Wells, director of the Robeson County Recreation and Parks Commission, met with approximately 60 citizens in the Town Hall to explain plans for the renovation of the Oak Ridge School.

Wells and his staff explained plans to turn the Oak Ridge High School into a Community Center, complete with staff and a full schedule of sports and social activities.

Renovation calls for a new gym roof, wiring, replacing about 600 broken windows, central heating and gym floor and said they hope to have contracts for construction work by the first of the year.

Wells is the son of our Baptist minister.

DEATH

Miss Cora Lavana McDuffie of 802 N. Elm Street, Lumberton was killed Wednesday morning, November 23, in a head-on collision near the N.C. Cancer Institute on NC 72. Funeral services were held Friday evening and burial at Saddletree Cemetery. Miss McDuffie had many friends in this community and taught school in Lumber Bridge and Rockfish for several years. Our community extends sympathy to her families.

Veterans Corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q -- Which veterans are eligible for GI Bill educational benefits?

A -- Veterans with 181 days active duty since January 31, 1955, and before January 1, 1977, who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are currently eligible for GI Bill educational benefits. Servicemen who have enlisted since January 1, 1977, may enroll in a new contributory educational program which replaces the GI Bill.

Q -- Will the Veterans Administration help pay for my funeral when I die?

A -- Veterans with wartime service and certain peacetime veterans are eligible for a burial allowance not to exceed \$250.

Q -- I understand I can have my widow's pension check sent directly to my bank under the Direct Deposit System. How can I accomplish this?

A -- Implementation of the Direct Deposit System for VA compensation and pension benefits was effective October 1, 1977. Those interested should take their next VA benefit check to their financial organization. The bank or financial organization will assist the beneficiary in completing the necessary forms.

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