

HELPED FOSTER CHILDREN -- Wilson McEachin and Mary Frances Conly (right) receive from Helen Monroe homemade quilts they won in a raffle held to help raise money for Hoke County's 24 foster children for Christmas. The raffle and a Gospel singing raised \$650 and were held by the Hoke County Foster Parents Association. Mrs. Monroe is the association's president. The Gospel singing was held last month. The presentation of the quilts was made Monday afternoon at the Hoke County Department of Social Services. [Staff photo].



CLIFF BLUE . . .
People & Issues



HOSPITAL COSTS -- We have been reading about the high expense of operating a hospital and what they find it necessary to charge the patients per day. Many average people are simply unable to pay the going rates but, somebody must pay, and those who can pay, must pay a much higher rate.

We have many people who need medical care and with doctor visits to the homes not what they used to be, how should our sick be served and cared for?

We spoke about this to Derry Walker, public relations man for Moore Memorial Hospital. He said that here in Moore County there is already such an organization which is operated by George Kacates, with an office in St. Joseph's Hospital near Southern Pines.

We called Mr. Kacates and had a nice talk with him about his organization.

Mr. Kacates operates in Moore, Lee, Hoke and Anson counties. He provides essentials for home care, such as I was thinking about.

They have nurses and nurses aides who will go for an hour or more a day where it is essential to have skilled nursing care, under doctor supervision.

When asked about the cost, Mr. Kacates said it was from 0 to \$26 per visit. When asked about the zero dollar visit, he said that there were various avenues for reasonable charges, when necessary, which could generally be worked out.

Years ago, most sickness brought about a doctor's visit to the home, but now doctor visits seem to have gone the way of the horse and buggy and the Model T. Ford!

Mr. Kacates plans would see, to an extent, to be a solution for senior citizens and others who prefer to remain at home when needing care.

DISTRICT RULING -- Members of the General Assembly, being politicians to boot and wanting to make their area as safe as possible, should have thrown up their hands and turned the redistricting over to an independent panel to bring back recommendations for congressional, state senate and state house districts. In politics it's a hard job to satisfy friends and abide by the constitution, state and national.

The legislators would not have been bound by the recommendations of the panel, and it would have been better than their spending time and money with a "waterhaul" each time.

What the people of North Carolina want, and what they should have, is fair representation. This would have been better for "my party" -- the Democrats, and for the Republicans, too. Generally the majority of the people want fairness. The General Assembly has spent thousands of the taxpayers dollars trying to gerrymander the General Assembly without success.

Of course we didn't expect the honorables to hand over authority of this nature, but it could have saved the state lots of money. Trying to evade doing what is right will not pay in the long run.

After all, it's no tribute to the General Assembly, and especially to the leaders, to have to try for a third time, to do what they should have done the first time.

REAGAN -- While a Democrat, we were hopeful that President Reagan would do what he promised during the campaign - balance the Federal Budget and move towards paying off the national debt.

There are lots of ways to reduce expenses other than squeezing the little people and the aged.

Every well informed person realizes that a considerable cut in Federal expenditures can be brought about without cutting vital government services.

The big taxpayers fared much better than the little taxpayers as the Tax cuts were geared toward them rather than the common

man. We questioned to ourselves any tax-cutting until the Federal Government was in balance. We said little, but we are not too surprised at the situation we may be faced with in the not too distant future.

Every intelligent tax-payer realizes the need of a strong defense. But we think we should have one within our means. We think that our diplomats, from our President on down, should not be paramounting the need for the latest in military equipment. We think this talk can do more to alert and bring our armed opponents to their feet to try and out do our defense.

We still hope that President Reagan can lead the nation to a balanced budget and bring a better understanding among the nations of the world.

Vets Corner

More than a million and a quarter Veterans Administration pension recipients received reminders this month that it's time to look at their incomes for this year to make certain they still meet the legal eligibility rules.

The annual questionnaire, required by law, was sent with November checks, and, with certain exceptions, VA pensioners must complete and return it by January 1, 1982 or face suspension of their payments, according to VA Regional Director, Kenneth E. McDonald.

One exempted group includes VA pensioners over 72 years of age who have been receiving pensions for the last two years. Also exempted are children under 23 receiving pension under laws in effect prior to December 31, 1978.

Instead of income questionnaires, these groups received with their November pension check a reminder that they must report any changes in the number or status of their dependents and any increase in their annual income which puts it over VA limits.

McDonald said these pension recipients need not report the June 1 cost-of-living increase in their social security since VA automatically records this information.

Help on completing both the annual income questionnaires and the reminder cards is available from VA Regional Offices and from major veterans organizations.

A Department of Justice study showing that Vietnam Era veterans are less likely than non-veterans to be in prison was applauded today by Kenneth E. McDonald, VA Regional Director.

"The study debunks still another derogatory myth about our youngest group of veterans," he said.

McDonald added, "Quite frankly I have been dismayed at the attention given to unfounded suicide, divorce and unemployment statistics about our Vietnam veterans. None are supported by credible studies."

The Veterans Administration noted that Vietnam Era veterans are the best educated in the history of our nation and the vast majority are working full-time with many earning above-average incomes in high level occupations.

"I realize there are some Vietnam veterans who may still suffer some physical or emotional trauma, and we will not shortchange them," McDonald said. "We are dedicated to reaching each and every one of these people either through our nationwide Vet Centers or through quality medical care."

Join Us For Christmas Dinner THIS SUNDAY 11:30 - 2:00 WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT 509 Harris Ave.

Vets Ask

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

Q--What is the difference between disability compensation and disability pension?

A--Compensation is paid to veterans with disability rated 10 percent or more disabling, which was incurred in or aggravated during active military service. Pension is paid to needy war veterans who are permanently and totally

disabled prior to age 65 or who have reached age 65.

Q--I bought a home recently with a GI guaranteed home loan. I have now discovered some defects which the seller refused to fix. Can the VA help me?

A--The Veterans Administration cannot compel a seller to remedy defects or to fulfill a contract on an existing home. However, there is a one-year guarantee on a newly constructed home. Contact the nearest VA office for details.

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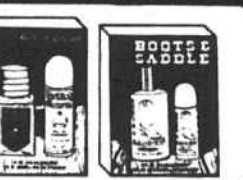
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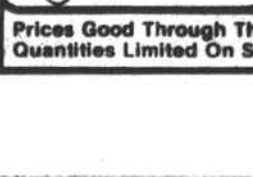
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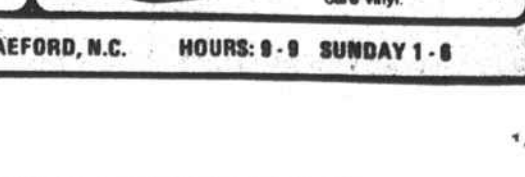
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