

Plan Aims At Welfare Programs Errors Heilig-Meyers' Third Quarter Better

After meeting January 26 with leaders of the North Carolina Social Services Directors Association and with representatives of the North Carolina County Commissioners Association, Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, announced that a joint strategy has been developed to prevent the problem of high error rates in public assistance programs.

Morrow has committed herself to assisting county departments of

social services in seeking more funds to provide eligibility workers for AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medicaid.

Together the North Carolina Department of Human Resources and the county representatives have agreed that the following components must be included in the plan of correction to be submitted to the federal government.

First, a uniform training package on regulatory and rules change including video cassette

instructions should be made available to all 100 county social services departments.

Secondly, regulatory changes that affect the three programs should be submitted to counties on a quarterly basis to give eligibility workers an opportunity to learn new rules as a package. Currently, regulatory changes are passed on to counties as soon as they are made and counties are held accountable for administering the changes as soon as notification is received. In

the past 18 months over 600 changes have been passed on to counties in the area of food stamps alone.

Additionally, agreement has been reached that public assistance responsibility at the state and regional level be specialized into food stamps, Medicaid, and AFDC respectively so that county workers can have expert assistance to call on in case of questions.

The state is continuing to complete automation of all public assistance program to increase the ability of counties to have a faster and more accurate reporting system.

Efforts are also being made to implement uniform rules and regulations for all three programs to eliminate confusion for workers, to require specific staffing levels so that caseload rates can be the optimum, and to review and revamp the current quality control system.

Current efforts to reduce error rates in AFDC and Medicaid are working. AFDC error rates had dropped to 4.7 percent by April through September 1981. This represents a decline of 1.5 percent from the previous period. In Medicaid the error rate for October to March of 1981 was down to 4.58 percent, a decline from 5.9 percent of April through September 1980 - the only period in which North Carolina's rate was above the federal error rate target.

Heilig-Meyers Company, the Richmond-based home furnishings chain, today announced revenues and earnings for the third quarter ended December 31, 1981.

Earnings were \$1,718,000, or 48 cents per share, on revenues of \$29.3 million during the three months ended December 31, compared with \$1,559,000, or 44 cents per share, on revenues of \$26.2 million a year ago.

For the first nine months, earnings were \$4,968,000 or \$1.40 per share, compared with \$4,188,000, or \$1.18 per share, for the same period last year. Revenues rose to \$84.4 million from \$70.8 million last year.

On January 12, 1982, the Company issued a 10% stock dividend to stockholders of record on December 14, 1981. The above earnings per share results have been restated to reflect this dividend.

Hyman Meyers, chairman, stated that the company is pleased to have attained these results in a difficult economic climate and that sales and collections are expected to continue to move along on a sound basis.

Meyers further stated that the company's revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 1981, included a one-time credit insurance commission of \$643,000. The company does not expect this item to recur this year.

The company continues to look for unusually good opportunities for expansion and expects to open three to five stores in the next 12 months.

Health Watch

What To Do For Frostbite

With the scientists and meteorologists predicting the coldest winter yet to come, you may be one of the many North Carolinians who will literally be "chilled to the bone" if you don't watch out.

Frostbite is one of the most common disturbances of winter weather and can also be one of the most serious. If prompt and effective measures are not taken, it can lead to gangrene and possible amputation.

Frostbite occurs when your body is exposed to extreme cold for an extended amount of time. The blood flowing from the trunk to the outer parts of your body begins to chill, and this is when trouble arises. The fingers and toes are the most susceptible but the nose, ears and cheeks are easy targets for frostbite, too.

The first sign of frostbite is flushed skin, which is your body's first reaction to the cold. The blood vessels dilate to allow more blood to flow to these regions. If no further steps are taken to warm the area it will begin to hurt. The tingling sensations will give way to numbness as severe frostbite sets in.

When all sensation has been lost and the pain has subsided, it is a sign that ice crystals have formed in the tissues, causing serious damage. By this time the skin has taken on a greyish-yellow or white appearance, with blisters commonly appearing. The result is a serious infection which left untreated can lead to gangrene or complete decay.

If you or someone you know becomes a frostbite victim, the first step is to restore circulation. The victim should be taken indoors or to a warmer place as soon as possible and given warm liquids to drink. Immersing the affected areas in lukewarm water will help "thaw out" the frostbitten tissues. NEVER use hot water; it will dilate the blood tissues so fast that they will rupture.

If lukewarm water is not available, wrap the victim in wool blankets or anything else that will effectively retain body heat. Do NOT use heat lamps or stand in front of fireplaces, radiators or heat vents. This will cause even further damage to the tissues.

The old wives' tale of rubbing the frostbitten areas with your hands or with snow should also be avoided since this too will increase the damage to your skin.

Once circulation has been restored, encourage the victim to move his fingers and toes. Cover any blisters or cracks that may have developed with sterile gauze to help ward off infection.

Frostbite can be remedied with prompt attention, but it can be avoided completely if you take care to dress warmly and dryly. Exercise to keep yourself warm, especially your hands and feet. But above all, have enough sense to come in out of the cold when it begins to chill you.

Library News

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY

The following is a list of new books received this week by the Hoke County Public Library, a member of the Sandhill Regional Library System. They are available at the Hoke County Public Library and Bookmobile in Raeford.

ADULT FACT

Ayers, William S. - "The Warner Collector's Guide to American Toys"
Chabak, Elaine - "The Official Kids' Survival Kit"
Glickman, Arthur - "Mr. Bad-wrench"
Makower, Joel - "Office Hazards: how your job can make you sick"
"1981-1982 Directory of State Governmental Services"
North Carolina's "China Connection," 1840-1949
"The Radio Amateur's Handbook"
Sawyer, Phyllis - "Aerobic Dancing A Step at a Time"
Torack, Richard - "Your Brain is Younger Than You Think"
Wender, Paul - "Mind, Mood and Medicine"
Fisher, Polly - "Polly's Pointers"
Haders, Phyllis - "The Warner Collector's Guide To American Quilts"
Bradford, Ernle - "Hannibal"
Flood, Charles - "LEE: The Last Years"
Michener, James - "James Michener's U.S.A."
Neely, James - "Gender: The Myth of Equality"
"Representative American Speeches"

ADULT FICTION

Cutter, Leela - "Murder After Tea-Time"
Egan, Lesley - "Random Death"
Godden, Rumer - "The Dark Horse"
Lord, Bette B. - "Spring Moon"
O'Dell, Scott - "The Feathered Serpent"
Ruse, Gary - "Gods Of Cerus Major"
Townsend, John - "The Islanders"
Wisler, G. Clifton - "Trident Brand"
Platt, Kin - "Brogg's Brain"
Slepean, Janice - "Lester's Turn"
Somerville-Large, Peter - "A Living Dog"

Taylor, Elizabeth A. - "The Cable Car Murder"
Woods, Sara - "Dearest Enemy"

CHILDREN'S FACT

Berger, Melvin - "Comets, Meteors and Asteroids"
Hohn, James - "Casey! the sports career of Charles Stengel"
Purdy, Susan - "Christmas Gifts Good Enough To Eat"

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Bauer, Caroline - "My Mom Traveled A Lot"
Cohen, Miriam - "Jim Meets The Thing"
Lowry, Lois - "Anastasis, Again!"
Potter, Beatrix - "The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin"
Provension, Alice - "An Owl and Three Pussycats"
Singer, Marilyn - "Will You Take Me To Town on Strawberry Day?"
Sobel, Donald - "Angie's First Case"
Goor, Ron - "Shadows: Here, There, and Everywhere"

N.C. Natural Gas Sales Reach Record High

Record high sales, an anticipated \$2,700,000 refund to customers and increased dividends were all features of an Interim Report to stockholders this week by Frank Barragan, Jr., president of North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation.

The company earned \$2.47 per share for the 12 months ended December 31, 1981. This compares to \$2.31 per share for the same period last year.

According to Barragan, the weather in the company's service area for the winter period to date has been near normal but January has been unusually cold. "However," he said, "the company's gas supply continues to be fully adequate to serve the requirements of its high priority customers even on

the coldest days." The company's sales have increased to almost 44,500,000 dekatherms up from 41,900,000 last year.

A recent order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, approving a settlement plan providing compensation to distribution companies curtailed more than the average in 1974-75 by Transco Company's pipeline system, is expected to result in a refund of \$2.7 million of NCG customers.

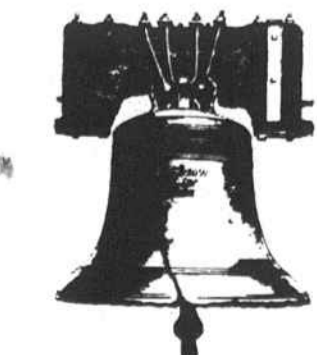
As reported earlier, the Board of Directors has increased regular quarterly dividends from 35 cents per share to 37 1/2 cents per share and declared such a dividend by paid March 15 to stockholders of record March 1, 1982.

Southern National Income Rose

Southern National Corporation reported that its net operating income (before security losses) amounted to \$4.19 per share for the year 1981 as compared to \$4.16 per share (or \$3.98 on a diluted basis as previously reported) for the year 1980.

The net operating income on a per share basis was \$1.28 in the fourth quarter of 1981 as compared with \$1.36 in the same quarter of 1980. On a diluted basis, these figures were \$1.36 in 1981 and \$1.34 in 1980.

During the second, third and fourth quarters, Southern National undertook the restructuring of a portion of the Bank's investment portfolio. This action resulted in an after tax loss on the sale of securities of \$814,154 for the year 1981. The proceeds from these sales were reinvested in bonds at present day yields without increasing the average life or reducing the quality of the portfolio. The increase in interest income from these newly acquired securities will greatly enhance the future earnings of the company.



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