

Amended Law To Social Security

The amended Social Security law makes it possible for the millions already eligible or who will become eligible for old-age and survivors insurance to have great earnings and still draw monthly benefits. According to Mr. Joseph P. Walsh, District Manager of the Gastonia Social Security Office, beginning with January of 1955 a person can work while receiving Social Security benefits, earn as much as \$1,200 a year, and still receive payments for every month of the year. In addition, a person 72 years of age may earn as much as they please and still receive benefits. Under the old law, in effect through December 1954, a social security beneficiary could not be paid benefits if he earned more than \$75 a month for work in a job covered by Social Security. A self-employed person couldn't receive all of his monthly benefits if his net income from his business exceed-

ed \$900 for the year. These provisions applied to all beneficiaries except those who had reached 75 years of age. The new provisions permitting \$1,200 a year of earned income without loss of any benefit, includes income from any work or self-employment activity regardless of whether or it is covered by Social Security or not. To illustrate that point, let's say a beneficiary is employed by a non-profit organization, which has not elected Social Security coverage for its employees. His earnings, nevertheless, will count toward the \$1,200 in a year which will result in loss of one month's benefit for each \$80 or fraction of \$80 in excess of \$1,200. Earnings of \$1,280 means benefits payable for eleven months of the year, earnings of \$1,360 means benefits payable for ten months of the year and so on. Earnings of more than \$2,080 in a year could mean no benefits for that year. The law also provides, however, that when a beneficiary neither earns \$80 in wages, nor renders substantial services as a self-employed individual in one or more months of the year, payment can be made for such months, even though earnings exceed \$2,080 for the year.

The examination, prepared by Science Research Associates of Chicago, will consist of multiple choice and subjective questions which will test the students' attitude and knowledge in such major areas of homemaking as family relationship, spiritual values, child care, health, safety, conservation of resources, money management, recreation, home beautification, community participation and continuing education.

A criteria chart which evaluates these factors in home and family living has been sent to the schools for use in classroom discussions to prepare the participants for the examination. After each girl has taken the test she will receive a 24-page homemaker guide which will assist her in pursuing her future career.

The girl receiving the highest examination score in each school will be entered in state competition where the winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and a trip with her school advisor to Washington, D. C., Colonial Williamsburg and Philadelphia. Her school will receive a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica if selected. The state winner who is selected for the All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow in Philadelphia April 21 will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Adding in making the selection will be a committee consisting of 13 nationally known educators and public leaders.

FOUND—Ladies brown suede glove and a small boys brown leather glove. Can be seen at the Eagle Office.

NOTICE

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Cherryville will receive sealed bids on one short wheel base two ton truck. The proposals must be received by the City Clerk not later than 4:30 P. M. Feb. 1, 1955. The town reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Specifications

One two ton Short Wheel Base Truck, wheel base minimum 130", maximum 318". Truck to be equipped with 8.25 x 20 10 ply tires, spare wheel and all standard equipment. Extra equipment shall include: one quart oil filter, hot water heater and two speed axle. Specifications for trucks must accompany the proposal.

"Homemaker Of Tomorrow Day"

January 12 will be "Homemaker Of Tomorrow Day" in Cherryville. It will be a day of opportunity for the senior girls of Cherryville High School who have been enrolled in the Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow.

Simultaneously, 189,530 young women of the senior graduating classes in 8,000 participating high schools throughout the United States will take a written examination testing their aptitude for the career that awaits nearly all of them—homemaking.

This 50-minute written examination will be the basis for selecting the Homemaker of Tomorrow in each school, state, and finally on April 21, the nation.

Scholarships totalling \$75,000.

MORE ABOUT Palmer To Head

(Continued From Front Page)

\$500,000 and authorized the selection of a directing committee headed by the Reverend Frank Efrid of Salisbury.

JOY THEATRE

Kings Mtn., N. C.
Your Cinemascope Theatre

Late Shows Every Mon.-Wed.-Fri.-Sat.

WED. & THURS.
"THE BLACK KNIGHT"
starring ALAN LADD and PATRICIA MEDINA

FRI. and SAT.
"The Naked Alibi"
with STERLING HAYDEN and GLORIA GRAHAM
Plus Cartoon and Comedy

Late Show Sat. 11:30
ALSO MON., TUES.
The Greatest Battle the West Ever Fought!
"Sitting Bull"
In Cinemascope with DALE ROBERTSON and MARY MURPHY

WED. & THURS.
- Next Week -
ROBERT TAYLOR in
"Rouge Cop"

LOOK FOR ...

BLAND'S
HOMEMADE
Hickory Smoked
BARBECUE
— NOW —
IN THE FROZEN FOOD
COUNTER OF YOUR
FAVORITE GROCERS

GRADE "A"
IN EVERY WAY
A GASTON COUNTY PRODUCT

We have a new lot
OF
Garden & Flower
SEEDS
Come and get your
Supply

**Farmers Union
Hardware**

WE HAVE 'EM..
NEW SHIPMENT
JUST ARRIVED!

WHITE SIDEWALL
**Firestone
De Luxe
Champions**

WE NEED YOUR TIRES
FOR RETREADING
GET OUR GIGANTIC
TRADE-IN OFFER!

Our Tires Will Cover
the Down Payment
EASY TERMS

Summary Of 1954 Polio Cases In Gaston

Almost twice as many cases of poliomyelitis were reported by physicians in Gaston County in 1954 than were reported in 1953. There was a noticeable increase in the number of people paralyzed by the disease in 1954. There was one death in 1954 although no deaths occurred in 1953.

More little boys appeared to have been affected in Gaston County in 1954 with the ratio of 2 to 1 over little girls. In 1953 approximately half of the people affected by poliomyelitis were males. There was an increase in the number of colored people having polio in 1954 and an increase in the number of children under 10 years of age.

The above observations were made from the following statistics:

	1953	1954
Cases Reported	26	42
Deaths	0	1
Males	12	28
Colored	1	6
Children under 10	23	35
10 to 20 years	1	5
20 to 30 years	2	0
Over 30 years	0	0
Occurring in Greater	16	19

CHERRYVILLE DRIVE-IN Theatre

WED. THURS., FRI.
"DIAL M FOR MURDER"
with RAY MILLAND and ROBERT CUMMINGS
Also Cartoon

SATURDAY
\$115.00 PRIZE
"WINGS OF THE HAWK"
with VAN HEFLIN and JULIA ADAMS
Chapter 8 of "Secret Code"
Also Cartoon

Sun. - Mon - Tues.
"Saskatchewan"
with ALAN LADD

THE STORY OF
ATTILA THE HUN

Sign of the Pagan

Technicolor

JEFF CHANDLER
JACK PALANCE
LUDMILLA TCHERINA
RITA GAM

Shows 1-3-5-7-9

WE NEED YOUR TIRES FOR RETREADING
GET OUR GIGANTIC TRADE-IN OFFER!

Our Tires Will Cover the Down Payment
EASY TERMS

Arthur Smith and his Crackerjacks, nationally-known TV radio, and recording artists, will appear here in the Starves Atatorium Saturday night, January 22 at 7:30 with their TV Talent Hunt show.

FOR TAXI SERVICE

I have taken over the Taxi Service at the City Cab on West Main Street near the Eagle Publishing Co., and solicit your business at all times, day or night. Will be available for service 24 hours per day.

I have been driving a Car since 1915, and will at all times be careful and courteous to all my passengers, regardless of age, color, religion or politics. Call the CITY CAB when you want to make a trip, regardless of how far, as distance don't mean anything to me, as I have travelled the Universe over many times. Our prices will be most reasonable.

THE CITY CAB
CHERRYVILLE, N. C. PHONE: 6741
DRIVERS: REEDIE S. BALLARD RALPH TOWERY

travel opportunities and other educational prizes are being offered by General Mills, sponsor of this search designed to assist the schools in building in young women a deeper appreciation and understanding of the American home and the personal qualities necessary to successful homemaking.

The examination, prepared by Science Research Associates of Chicago, will consist of multiple choice and subjective questions which will test the students' attitude and knowledge in such major areas of homemaking as family relationship, spiritual values, child care, health, safety, conservation of resources, money management, recreation, home beautification, community participation and continuing education.

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Muirhead To Head 1955 Heart Drive

Chapel Hill—William Muirhead of Durham, president of the Muirhead Construction Company, has agreed to serve as state chairman of the 1955 Heart Fund campaign in February. It was announced today by Dr. John G. Smith of Rocky Mount, president of the North Carolina Heart Association.

Muirhead, a former state president of the Heart Association, is treasurer and past president of Associated General Contractors of America and is active in both civic and business circles. He is chairman of the Housing Authority of the city of Durham, and was recently named to the board of directors of a national citizens' group for improvement of housing.

The need for vigorous public support of a determined attack on diseases of the heart and blood vessels becomes more obvious every day," Muirhead said in accepting the Heart Fund chairmanship. "These diseases were responsible for almost 400,000 deaths in North Carolina last year, killing over 13,000 more of our citizens than did all accidents, including those caused by motor vehicles." Muirhead pointed out that tuberculosis, which in former years was a top cause of death, now ranks in seventh place. "That's where we want to be some day," he declared.

The 1955 Heart Fund will be conducted on one day, February 20, which has been designated nationally as Heart Sunday. Muirhead said on that day, volunteers all over the state and nation will call on their neighbors for their voluntary gifts to Heart, he explained.

Chairman of the National Heart Fund for 1955 is General Mark W. Clark, former Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, and now President of The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina at Charleston, who issued the following statement this week: "On the basis of the astounding progress made in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the heart diseases during the past 20 years, medical science could well pause to congratulate itself. But heart research can't afford to wait, and our scientists know that the big problems are still ahead. They have yet to find the causes of hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure and rheumatic fever—three conditions which account for more than 50 per cent of all heart disease." Since the American Heart Association began its national research support program, General Clark added, it has channeled more than \$8,000,000 into scientific research in this field.

BUY WHAT YOU NEED PAY AS YOU GET PAID

Easy Terms at Firestone

RCA Victor 21-inch "Special 21." Lowest price ever for RCA Victor 21-inch TV. Specially designed for all normal signal areas. "Golden Throat" Fidelity Sound. Forest green cabinet finish. Stand available, extra. Model 215500.

TE Association Thanks Helpers

The Executive Committee of the Gaston County Tuberculosis Association wishes to thank all those who helped in the recent Christmas Seal Sale.

The Gaston County Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Barbee, and local chairmen did an excellent job of lining up committees to help with getting the seals out, and in carrying the educational message on tuberculosis to all people in our county.

We wish to express appreciation to the Gastonia Gazette, the Gaston Citizen, the Belmont Banner, the Mt. Holly News and the Cherryville Eagle for their cooperation in giving publicity to the Seal Sale.

Our deepest appreciation also to the postal clerks who so ably helped in getting out the Christmas Seal letters.

Stations WNCN and WLTC carried on transcriptions and spot announcements for which we thank them. To all stores and business houses who featured our posters, and gave space in their windows for advertising displays, we thank you - and finally, to the thousands who bought Seals as individuals and as business firms, we express

our deepest appreciation, and assure you that the money contributed will be used to carry on a campaign to help eradicate tuberculosis from our midst.

Christmas Seal Sale Returns	
Gastonia	\$4,300.75
Dallas	266.10
Cherryville	520.50
Cramerton	396.10
Bessemer City	482.04
Lowell	198.50
High Shoals	76.75
Mr. Holly	619.00
Pelmont	1,108.50
Stanley	225.25
McAdenville	58.50
Special Contributions (Colored Schools, Churches, etc.)	244.64
	\$8,487.63
Contributions promised and to be received	1,023.00
	\$9,510.63

Irrigation System Not "Panacea"

The farmer about to "beat the drought" by installing a sprinkler system would be wise to talk the situation over first with his county agent or other impartial adviser.

Public assistance grants are based on need. Assets and income of the applicant and the ability of close relatives to support him are taken into account in North Carolina in determining need.

THE NEW YEAR'S SHOOTERS

THIS PICTURE WAS MADE IN 1932



Uncle Ephriam Stroup, deceased, A. Sidney Beam, and we were unable to learn the third man's name, but these are three of the old timers.

The oldest holiday custom in North Carolina was brought to the hills of Gaston County by immigrants 200 years ago.
BY BILL SHARPE
(State Magazine)

This New Year's Eve, around 20 Gaston County people will spend the first 16 or 18 hours of 1955 going from house to house and serenading their friends.

They will not do it with bells or rattles but with a salute of ancient muskets, heavily loaded with black powder to make the maximum noise, smoke and smell. Each musketeer will be preceded by the "crying" of a New Year's Greeting, itself as curious and as lost in antiquity as the rest of the custom.

If you've heard of the Annual Cherryville New Year Shooters you probably think it is just some rough-house noise-making. This popular opinion is 100 per cent wrong.

People don't keep up the same sort of laborious rough-house for centuries just to have fun. Especially when they get to be 75 and 80 years old, and the "rough-house" involves constant traveling, reeking and shooting from midnight until 5 the next afternoon.

First, let's describe what the Cherryville Shooters do.

In the fall they have a meeting and agree on a route. On New Year's Eve they gather at Dwight Sweet's place near Cherryville. A word about the shooting: the first blast is let loose. Then the members pile into their cars and start the tour. The group calls on about 50 or 60 friends in the territory roughly lying between Cherryville and Lincolnton.

The strict ritual of the Shooters is now A. Sidney Beam, to call out "Halloo" three times. If there is no response, the group goes on. But also invariably since the Shooters are expected—the host replies. When he does, Beam rears back and recites the "Speech" printed with this "Speech". Mr. Beam, 82 years old, is a critic of 65 years' experience.

Following the speech or sermon or chant, the Shooters one by one step forward and fire their old muzzle-loaders.

The person honored by this tremendous token of good will is expected to invite the group in for a little something—goodies or perhaps a cigar around the fire.

Too much delay for the list is long, so the Shooters pile back in their cars and ride over the steepening hills toward the Lincolnton line.

Before going far they stop off at the home of Mrs. Violet Carpenter, who for many many years has prepared the first meal of the New Year for her friends. Mrs. Carpenter is now 80 years old, but age does not deter her from preparing a lavish feast of ham, chicken, vegetables, pickles, relishes and cakes. Almost as famous as the Shoot is the hot ginger tea at the Carpenter feast.

At 5 a.m. the group pauses for breakfast with Ruffin White. The hours pass, the crackerjacks, the pies and cakes. Almost as famous as the Shoot is the hot ginger tea at the Carpenter feast.

No one in Cherryville has any recollection of a time when New Year was not shot in. Scholars think it may be a survival coming from the Germanic peoples. The Gaston group are all descendants of German settlers, and these people brought the custom from the Old World. Arthur Palmer Hudson in an article in Southern Folklore (Dec., 1947) says that New Year's Eve in old Germany (which is Saint Sylvester's Day), when laid armed with guns, formed themselves in a circle and fired three in the air. The ceremony was called "Shoot the Witches."

He quotes another German scholar as saying that on New Year's Eve and Day, through out the land, men fired guns to shoot the old year out and the new year in, as a sort of greeting and complimenting sweatearts and neighbors. "Refreshments were the honored follow as a matter of course."

There was an echo of the custom among the Pennsylvania Dutch who shot into fruit trees on New Year's Eve to insure a harvest.

The Moravians of Wachovia did not practice the custom, but their less pious neighbors did, and the Moravians complained. "A crowd of the young men and boys went about from farm to farm shooting

and pull up in a dark and lonely shooting line, and the Shooters in their cars and circle the arcing line of guns and shot with their muzzle-loaders. The shot is not fired against the shoulder—the need would knock a man down. Instead, the Shooters aim at the trees level.

The first shot is fired, the "Halloo" is heard, and the "Speech" is recited. The "Speech" is a square dance lyrics by Lyle Edwards.

The origin of the Cherryville Shooters is Howell Stroup, a young giant with an immense enthusiasm for the old tradition. This grandfather, Ephriam Stroup, was a shooter for 50 years. The group is loosely organized. A 1932 photograph shows the Shooters in a field, some holding rifles, during a New Year's Eve shooting event. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

But you just don't travel 100 miles in 18 hours and load and shoot a blunderbuss from 50 to 75 times for the sake of raising hell. "There never will be a lot of Shooters," Howell says truthfully. "Not many people will stick with it."

And why does ANYBODY stick with it? Howell's enthusiasm will explain even if it doesn't convert. It is a mixture of bucolic joyousness, religion and fellowship. It is sort of like a shivaree.

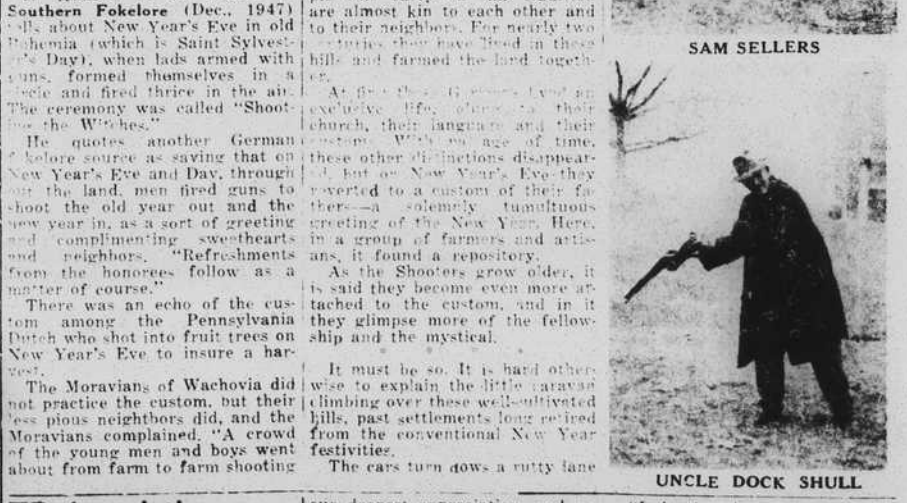
It is a family reunion. The people who carry on this tradition are almost kin to each other and to their neighbors. For nearly two centuries they have lived in these hills and farmed the land together.

At first the Germans lived an exclusive life, almost in their church, their language and their ways. With the passage of time, these other distinctions disappeared, but on New Year's Eve they reverted to a custom of their fathers—a solemnly tumultuous greeting of the New Year. Here, in a group of farmers and artisans, it found a repository.

As the Shooters grow older, it is said they become even more attached to the custom, and in it they glimpse more of the fellowship and the mystical.

It must be so. It is hard otherwise to explain the little caravan limboing over these well-wooded hills, past settlements long retired from the conventional New Year festivities.

The cars turn down a rutty lane



UNCLE DOCK SHULL

"Irrigation is no cure-all for poor crops," warns irrigation engineers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Installation of numerous irrigation systems in the Eastern states in recent years indicates that many farmers may be turning to water as a kind of crop insurance against drier-than-normal weather. Although irrigation increases in yield, it will not replace other good management practices, engineers point out. Irrigation will do nothing to solve problems of erosion—it may actually increase the runoff. Likewise, irrigation fertility will do nothing to improve fertile or poor soil conditions which limit crop production.

So don't buy that irrigation system and think that all your problems are solved. "The advice of a soil specialist can help you determine whether an irrigation system is what you need for your particular farm," specialists say.