

# School and Your Child

By: John Corey

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## SHOULD TESTS KEEP YOUNGSTERS OUT OF COLLEGE?

All high schoolers planning to enter Tar Heel state-supported colleges next fall must take a college entrance examination test.

Does this mean that doors of state-supported institutions of higher learning may be closed to those with scores too low?

For what purpose the test scores are to be used is reserved to individual colleges. But it's quite conceivable the scores may have much to do with one's chances of entering state institutions.

A warning to colleges about becoming too tight on admissions comes from Dr. James E. Stone, director of research, extension and summer sessions at Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N.C. "No person should ever be denied further opportunities to learn what everybody should know (general liberal education) because he has relatively little knowledge," maintains Dr. Stone.

"Otherwise you deny education to those who need it most."

In fact, if a choice had to be made as to which caliber of student should be admitted first for a general liberal education, Dr. Stone would say the youngster with the lower test score.

Our nation will live and survive far longer on a broad foundation of educated masses than with an ultra educated elite few at the top. "Evidence indicates that leaders can lead in any morally right direction only so far as the followers can go," says the Appalachian professor. "And it's apparent that the masses have either been ignorant or deluded in all present and past dictatorships."

General liberal education is part of a process whereby each generation passes on accumulated knowledge to succeeding younger generations. Using low scholastic aptitude test scores as a selective factor in determining which members of the younger generation should receive this benefit could never be defended with logic, Dr. Stone maintains.

He would, however, use test scores and other indicators of success as selective factors in determining all those who should attend

colleges which prepare youngsters for all occupations such as medicine, teaching and engineering.

But when it comes to general education, test scores are questionable predictors of success in college and Dr. Stone has little sympathy for hyper critics who cry that many attend college who shouldn't be there.

The critics underestimate the resourcefulness, ingenuity and intelligence of youngsters who really want to go to college. Frequently they predict that these folks can't graduate—yet they do.

This attitude reminds Dr. Stone of the farmer, who said, as his mule sailed over the fence, "My mule can't jump."

(Editor's note: Readers having questions concerning education are invited to send inquiries to School and Your Child, Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N. C.)



YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

By: Lucille M. Rickman  
Field Representative

As many as 300 persons in Western North Carolina have not taken advantage of a recent amendment to the Social Security Law which makes it easier to qualify for benefits, according to Mrs. Lucille M. Rickman, field representative of the Asheville office. She urged prompt action by the individuals affected in order to avoid loss of benefits.

The amendment in question allows workers to qualify now and in the future with less work than was previously required, and affects those now past retirement age as well as those who reach retirement age in the future.

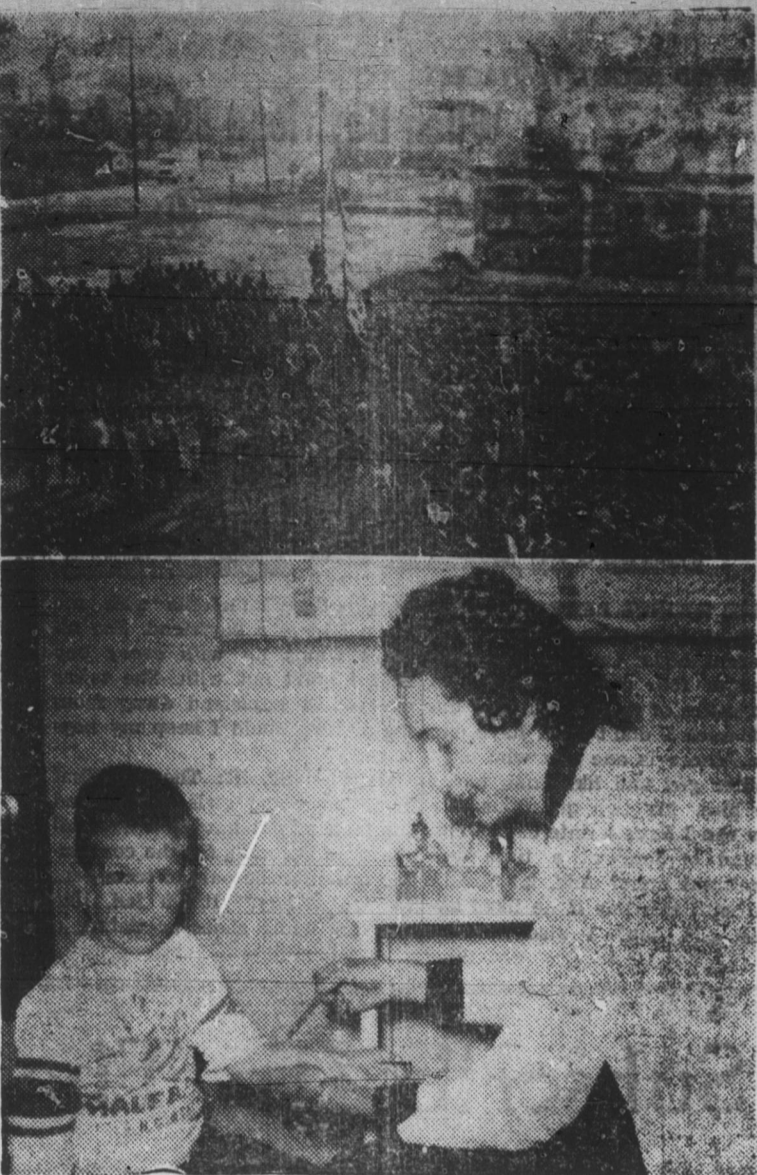
Under the new law, in order to

qualify for benefits a person must have worked after 1936 in social security-covered employment or self-employment a total number of calendar quarters equal to one-third of the calendar quarters from January 1951 to the year in which he attains retirement age or dies. The old law required work equal to one-half of this period.

As an example, Mrs. Rickman recalled the case of a worker who became 65 and retired a few months ago, with only 3 years of covered work. The man's claim was disallowed, since, under the old law, he had to have 19 quarters—almost 5 years—of covered work. He recently filed a new claim, however, and his claim has now been paid, since under the new law he needs only 12 quarters of covered work.

Mrs. Rickman pointed out that while the minimum requirement of 6 quarters of coverage is not changed by the law, reductions have been made in the work requirements for all persons reaching retirement age (age 65 for men, 62 for women, between 1954 and 1959, and suggested that interested persons of retirement age contact the social security district office, or see the representative immediately for more information.

Mrs. Rickman will be in the courthouse in Burnsville every Wednesday beginning at 9:30 a. m., to give information and assistance to Yancey County residents on social security matters.



BOTTOM A school child in Pamlico County receives tuberculin test during the special five-year tuberculin testing pilot study.

TOP: The Pamlico County Tuberculosis Association presents 50-star flag to school for promoting parent participation in last year's testing program.

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