

The Yancey Record

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SNOW LEAVES, RAIN COMES

After a 10 to 20 inch snowfall, followed by two days and nights of heavy rain, the rivers and creeks in this area were really on a rampage and overflowing their banks at many places.

The writer, along with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Boone and their guest, Mrs. Wren Freeman of Alexander, took a long drive down Cane River and the Toe Rivers Sunday afternoon. About two miles beyond Hunteale we were forced to back out and head back the same way when the waters of the North and South Toe, which merge near that spot, overran the highway.

Riding along the highway, with water almost lapping at the wheels, and over rickety looking bridges, with the muddy water not too far below, gave one a rather uneasy feeling. In places, where the rapids were so strong, it reminded us of a visit to the foot of Grand Canyon, where the raging Colorado River is a sight to behold. A beautiful sight was the many waterfalls and streams rushing off the mountains.

We noted many homes on the other side of the rivers completely cut off by the high water overflowing the roads. The low bottoms, particularly along Cane River, were almost completely covered with water.

Another interesting sight was the number of swinging bridges over the rivers, which probably afford the only way for a great many people to reach their homes. In many places these swinging bridges were filled with people viewing the water below. To this writer crossing one of those bridges under normal conditions would take a lot of courage.

The high waters no doubt served a good purpose by carrying away a lot of garbage and other debris which people customarily empty into the streams, thereby spoiling the beauty, destroying the fish, and making a mess generally of the beautiful rivers and streams in this area. The Federal and State Governments are, of course, working to eliminate this abuse of the streams, and it is hoped they will before too long be successful.

To our way of thinking, this drive, which follows the Cane and Toe Rivers, with towering mountains on either side, is one of the most beautiful in Yancey County,

if not in Western N. C. We look forward to retracing our steps in the spring, summer and fall, when we can enjoy the view without wondering whether or not we are running into high water.

The Bureaucrats Move Into Medicare

One of the fears expressed about medicare was that there would be so much red tape involved that a senior citizen with a heart attack might pass on before getting into a hospital. If there is one thing Mr. John Doe, average citizen, has learned to dread it is the mass of details required in doing business with the government.

This may be one reason why some eight million out of 18 million eligible for medicare have not signed up.

Even though medicare is in its infancy, it is interesting to note that bureaucracy is already showing its hand.

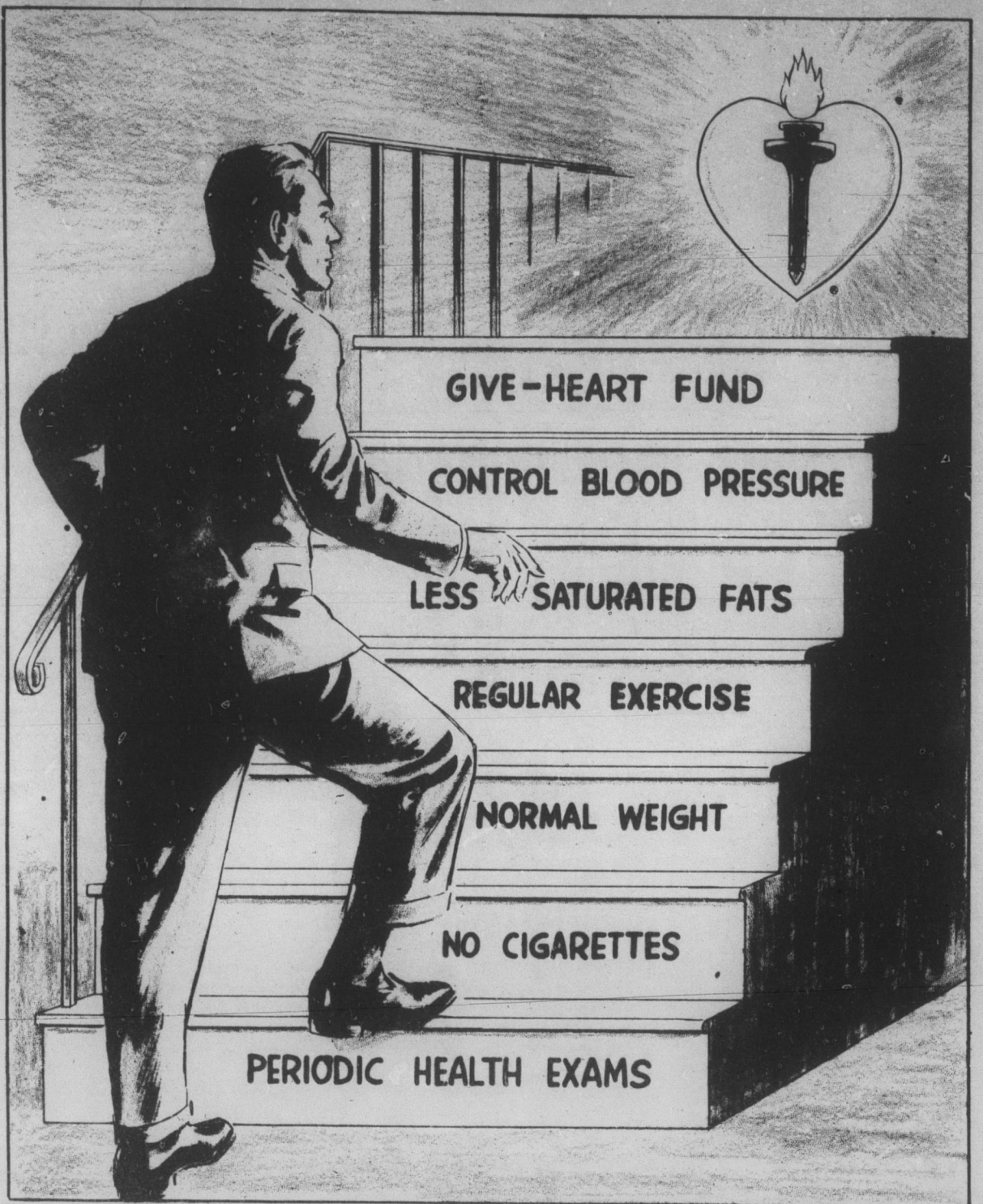
The medicare division of Social Security, we are told, is now insisting upon applicants providing a birth certificate, even though, as Rep. Durward G. Hall points out, the federal interviewers can, in many cases, take an obvious look at the appli-

cants and see that they are well over 65.

Further, he says, and rightly, a large percentage of states had no birth certificate laws prior to 1910. This hits a lot of applicants, naturally. The Social Security has long recognized that many older citizens do not have, and cannot obtain, birth certificates. The Social Security has, in the past agreed to accept documentary evidence of age, using such things as old insurance policies, Bibles and so on.

But not the medicare bureaucrats. They are being bull-headed, and according to Rep. Hall, are insisting that applicants pay \$5 to the Census Bureau to run down records, fully knowing that no such records exist.

"This new and unpublicized provision comes as a shock to older citizens who have had to find out the hard way," Rep. Hall said.



Steps to reduce your risk of heart attack

SEASON EXTENDED ON BOBWHITE QUAIL

D. R. McGalliard, Wildlife protector, of Yancey County, said the Wildlife Resources Commission has extended the season on bobwhite quail from Tuesday, February 15, through Saturday, February 26. McGalliard said this will give Tarheel bird hunters an extra ten days of shooting, including two Saturdays.

The Commission's action was taken after a survey by field personnel disclosed that there is a harvestable supply of birds still available, and an extended hunting season would not endanger brood stock for producing next fall's crop of birds.

McGalliard added that the Commission gave some consideration to extending the rabbit season, but decided against this because rabbits have already begun their breeding cycle.

Bag limits and other regulations for taking quail during the ten-day extension will be the same as during the season that would have ended February 15.

He is protesting to the Social Security Administration.

Those applying for hospital care have their eyes with Social Security in Baltimore. They have been in existence, many of them, since withholdings went into effect in 1937. So the information is available to the medicare people. They just have to ask for it. But that would be too simple, and too little trouble for citizens, and besides it might create a more efficient organization and fewer bureaucrats would be needed.

Legislation Approved To Benefit Veterans

By Sen. B. Everett Jordan
WASHINGTON — Congress has approved legislation which will be of tremendous benefit to veterans who have served in the Armed Forces since the Korean War.

The new "GI Benefits Bill" will make all the persons who have served in the Armed Forces on active duty since February 1, 1955, for a period of 180 days or more eligible for benefits under the program.

The program is not limited to servicemen who have served or are serving in Vietnam or other areas of combat. Instead it covers all of these servicemen plus any others who have been on active duty in any of our armed services.

The primary purpose of the program is to encourage and promote the education of servicemen and veterans in institutions of higher learning.

The new law provides that educational assistance will be provided for up to 36 calendar months of school or training. The assistance rates for full-time training or education are \$100 per month for a single veteran, \$125 for a veteran with one dependent, and \$150 for a veteran with more than one dependent. Proportionately lower rates for less than full-time training or education are also provided.

Another key part of the new program is a GI home loan program which was so popular and beneficial among veterans of World War

II and the Korean War. Under the new program, the Veterans Administration may guarantee as much as \$7500 of a loan made by a private lender for a veteran's home.

The new program also provides for nonservice-connected medical care for veterans in V. A. hospitals and preference will be given to veterans in obtaining employment with the federal government.

There are many, many thousands of veterans who have served since the Korean war who will be eligible for the first time to obtain benefits under the new program, and more detailed information will be available in the near future from the various V. A. offices and veterans service offices located throughout the Nation.

HOSPITAL

RECEIVES GRANT

The Duke Endowment is distributing this week \$1,404,392 to help hospitals and child care institutions in N. C. and S. C. finance their charity services. Eighty-four hospitals in North Carolina are receiving \$505,846; and 26 child care institutions in N. C. are receiving \$342,210. The total amount being distributed in N. C. is \$848,056.

The hospital contributions are based on \$1 a day for each free day of care in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30th, 1965. Yancey Hospital received \$1,895.