

# SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

By: D. C. Nichols

This is the third and last of a three-part answer to an important and timely question — "Am I getting my money's worth from the Social Security taxes I'm paying?" The first two parts were published in The Yancey Record (the last two weeks).

Since this is a system of "Social" Security rather than individual security, it should be appraised primarily in terms of the protection and security it gives the American people against the risks of old age, disability, and death.

Looked at another way — this program can be gauged by the extent to which it succeeds in preventing want, deprivation and dependency in our democratic country.

Aside from any moral or humane concern, each individual Social Security taxpayer has more than one financial interest in preventing destitution and dependency. For instance — to the extent dependency is not prevented, payments by the Nation's assistance (welfare) programs out of general revenues will naturally increase in response to democratic pressures.

According to the most informed and plausible estimate that we have seen — if there were no Social Security program the old age assistance rolls would be at least quadrupled, at over 4 times their present yearly cost.

The benefit structure of Social Security is purposely designed to give relatively more protection to those who, in the judgment of Congress, need it most: men with families, low-income workers, and workers who were comparatively near to retirement age when their work was covered by the program.

However, the average worker can expect to collect much more than the value of his social security tax contributions just in the benefit payable to him and his wife in retirement (proportionately more if they live beyond and less if they do not reach the average life expectancy). But if a married man

with three small children becomes disabled or dies in his twenties, thirties, or even later, his family can get benefits totalling far more than the social security taxes he has paid.

Monthly survivors benefits are, in fact, payable to the widow and children of a young man who had worked and paid the social security taxes for as little as a year and a half provided it was during the three years before his death. Monthly payments to a surviving widow and two or more children range from \$66 to \$368 a month, depending on the workers' average earnings under Social Security.

Example: A young father of two small children, both under 5, is killed in an automobile ac-

cident. His average earnings covered by social security were \$450 a month. His widow and children can receive as much as \$328 in monthly benefits, or nearly \$4000 a year. By the time the older child reaches 18 this family can draw over \$51,000. But the widow, unless remarried, can continue receiving benefits for herself, and in any case for the younger (and also unmarried) child until that child becomes 18. And that's not all — the children can get benefit payments until each reaches age 22 if they continue their education, remaining unmarried. Benefits may be paid indefinitely to a disabled child. And most widows can get monthly benefits for life beginning at age 60.

## Men In Service

AMARILLO, Tex. — Airman Johnny I. Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Robinson of Rt. 5, Burnsville, N. C., has been selected for technical training as aircraft structural repairman at Amarillo AFB, Tex.

The airman, who has just completed U. S. Air Force basic training at Amarillo, is a member of the Air Training Command which conducts hundreds of specialized courses to provide the technically trained personnel for our national aerospace force.

Airman Robinson is a 1966 graduate of East Yancey High School.

FT. POLK, LA. (AHTNC) — Army Private Virgil R. Woody, son of Mrs. Myra E. Woody, Rt. 1, Green Mountain, N. C., completed nine weeks of advanced infantry training July 21 at Ft. Polk, La. His last week of training was spent in guerrilla warfare exercises.

During his guerrilla training he lived under simulated Vietnam conditions for five days, fighting off night attacks and conducting raids on "enemy" villages. He was taught methods of removing booby traps, setting ambushes, and avoiding enemy ambushes.

Other specialized training included small unit tactics, map reading, land mine warfare, communications, and firing the M-14 rifle, machine gun and 3.5-inch rocket launcher.

### NOTICE

The Yancey County Selective Service Office is now open. Miss Glenna Lee Ray is clerk.

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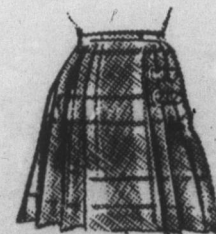


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J. F. ROBINSON, Gen. Mdse.

CANE RIVER, N.C.

## National Forests Report Big Business In 1967

The National Forests in North Carolina did a million dollar business in Fiscal Year 1967, according to Forest Supervisor Peter J. Hanlon.

"According to final reports just in", said Mr. Hanlon, "we made 494 timber sales last year. There sales had a total volume of nearly 63 million board feet of timber — enough to build 6,300 average sized homes. Of course, a lot of what we sold made furniture, paper and other forest products."

National Forest timber is marked for sale and sold to the highest bidder through sealed bids. Twenty-five percent of the sale price is returned to the counties in which National Forest lands lie. The money is spent for roads.

While furnishing recreational opportunities, clean water and a habitat for wildlife National Forests make an important contribution to the forest products industries in North Carolina.

District Ranger Helton Carmichael of Burnsville added that 5,900,000 board feet of timber was sold from the Toccoa Ranger District. This timber had a value of \$120,140.45.