

## New Books Added To Regional Libraries

By: Ashton Chapman

The Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library has acquired a number of new, interesting volumes. These may be secured through the public libraries in Bakersville, Burnsville, Newland and Spruce Pine, which compose the Regional Library, or through the bookmobiles the Regional Library operates in the three counties.

**EASTERN GEM TRAILS** by Floyd and Helga Oles. A guide to the most attractive and productive gem and mineral collecting areas of central eastern United States, with a special section on North Carolina.

**BETTER AND FASTER READING** by Lee Learner Gray. Comprehensive instructions for the average person who wishes to improve his reading speed.

**HOW TO PASS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCE EXAMINATION** edited by Francine Klagshrun. A five-day study program to prepare for High School Equivalence diploma. Hundreds of test questions and answers, and day-to-day study schedule.

**THOMAS WOLFE**, an introduction and interpretation by Richard Walsler of the N. C. State University faculty at Raleigh, with photos. An important addition to the American Authors and Critics Series.

**THE KITCHEN MADONNA** by Rumer Godden is an all-too-brief tale of how an aloof and silent boy, by an act of loving kindness, is drawn into the warmth of human society.

**WEATHERVANS AND WHIFLIGIGS** by Ken F'zierland. This charming little book, full

of appealing drawings by the author, gives the history and development of weathervans and introduces the reader to the delight of an unfailingly good-humored native art.

**COUNT BHOEMOND** by Al-red Dugger. A splendid novel of the 11th Century and the First Crusade.

**OUR CROWD** by Stephens Birmingham. A fascinating, insider's view of one of the richments of a rich city; Jewish upper-class life in New York — vibrant, romantic, special — a city within a city.

**PUBLISHER'S CHOICE**; 10 short story discoveries by the Editors of Scribners. Among the finest short stories published in America. The writers are comparatively young, all are committed to relevant issues of modern life, and all display remarkable control and usage of short story techniques.

**THE INSTRUMENT**. One of John O'Hara's finest novels. The portrayal of Vank Liras is, in itself a brilliant achievement, but the reality of this character is the product of his relationship with the great variety of others who are needed to develop the intricate story.

### NOTICE

SSGT. Charles D. Bornman, your Marine Recruiter will be in Burnsville the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday from 3:00 until 4:00 at the Veterans Office in the Courthouse.

## Increase In Medical Insurance Premium To Take Effect April 1

A \$1 increase — from \$3 to \$4 — in the monthly medical insurance premium (under the voluntary "doctor bill insurance" part of Medicare) will take effect April 1, 1968, according to James E. Robertson, Asheville Social Security district manager.

Robertson explained that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is required by law to carefully review the cost experience and actuarial projections of this voluntary program, to determine the necessary premium rate. The announced increase is based on such a review. Actually several months ago the Secretary indicated, in the course of his review, that it appeared a \$4 rate would be necessary in view of the increasing medical costs.

"Enrollees and the Federal government pay equal monthly premium shares for the cost of medical services under the voluntary program. The \$3 rate, which has been in effect since Medicare began on July 1, 1966, will continue for three months, through March 31, 1968."

Robertson stated that the increase does not apply to the regular coverage for hospitalization paid for by Medicare. The basic hospital insurance (Part A of Medicare) is financed primarily by payroll tax contributions and is not affected by this premium rate increase.

"Nearly 18 million Americans (92 percent of the population aged 65 and over) are enrolled in the voluntary Part B pro-

gram, for which enrollees make monthly premium payments. Part B — which supplements the Part A hospital protection — covers a wide variety of medical services, primarily physicians' services, whether furnished at home or in the doctor's office, in a hospital or elsewhere."

Robertson pointed out that "the vast majority of those enrolled in the voluntary program are receiving monthly social security cash benefits. The increase in monthly benefits provided by the 1967 Social Security Amendments will be many times larger than the \$1 premium increase."

Robertson gave the following technical explanation: "About 20 cents of the \$1 increase is necessary to finance the program at the level of operation in the past. It is estimated that the premium rate for the past 18 months should have been 53.20 instead of \$3. (Although it's estimated that on an accrual basis expenses are running about 7 percent over premium income, the program has more than ample funds, on a cash basis, to meet its expected obligations.)

"One-fourth of the increase arises because people covered under the program are expected, on the average, to use about 2 percent a year more of covered services in the period ahead than in the past — and because the \$50 deductible will exclude a smaller proportion of medical expenses as the use of services and the level of physicians' fees increase.

"Another one-fourth of the increase is accounted for by expected increases of about 5 percent a year in physicians' fees for the period ahead. And the remaining portion of the premium increase and the interest earnings on the fund are available for contingency purposes.

"About 23 cents of the monthly per capita margin of 28 cents left for contingency would be used when improvements in coverage under the new Social Security Amendments of 1967 become effective — for example, by payment of the full charge for X-ray and pathology services to patients in hospitals and by coverage of more physical therapy services than under the old law."

## Dairy Grades Announced

As is required by law the District Health Department announces the grades of Dairies selling milk to Pet Dairy Company, Waynesville, N. C., to be pasteurized and the grades of Distributors selling milk and milk products in Yancey County, for the grading period ending Dec. 31, '67.

All producer Dairies selling milk to Pet Dairy Company are grade A. There are 4 Distributors selling pasteurized milk and milk products in Yancey County. All are selling Grade A products, nothing less is allowed in this Health District.

The Distributors are: Pet Dairy Company, Waynesville, N. C., Haywood County; Biltmore Dairy Company, Asheville, N. C., Buncombe County; Sealtest Dairy Company, Asheville, N. C., Buncombe County; and Burke Co-operative Dairy, Morgantown, N. C., Burke County.

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