

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS

By: D. C. Nichols

Q. How old does a person have to be to get a social security card?

A. There is no minimum or maximum age limit for getting a social security card. One should secure it if possible before applying for a job, as the employer will need the name and account number as they appear on the card. (Some very young children have worked, for example, in motion picture and television productions, and the taxes have been withheld for their social security credit.)

Q. I'm doing research on social and economic problems for background information that will help me as a teacher. Right now I'm studying the problem of Disability in the United States. If you have any current, or recent, facts and figures showing some of the dimensions of this problem, I'd like to have them.

A. In the May 1968 issue of the Social Security Bulletin (official publication of the Social Security Administration) are presented the findings from the nationwide 1966 Social Security Survey of Disabled Adults including all non-institutionalized disabled persons 18-64. The field work was done for us by the Bureau of the Census.

The Survey showed that disability affected about one-sixth of the nation's working-age population in 1966. Disability was found to limit some 18.2 million adults in their ability to work, and of these 17.8 million had been disabled longer than 6 months.

The survey report classifies the disabled into three categories: (1) those "unable to work altogether or unable to work regularly," (2) the occupationally disabled — those "able to work regularly, but unable to do the

same work as before the onset of disability, or unable to work full-time," and (3) those "able to work full-time, regularly, and at the same occupations but with limitations in the kind or amount of work they could do" in their jobs.

The report documents substantial losses of earnings and family income because of disability. It points out that public programs designed to offset the wage losses from disability paid out more than \$6 billion in cash benefits and assistance to the disabled and their dependents in 1966. But it explains that these programs are intended primarily to provide for the severely disabled rather than for disabled persons with residual work capacities.

However, more than half of the severely disabled received no income from public income-maintenance programs, and close to three-fourths of these

were women. "Severely disabled men benefited from disability income-support programs to a greater extent than women.

Three-fifths of the severely disabled men received income from one or more of the public programs, compared with less than two-fifths of the women."

More than 1.3 million severely disabled men received no wage-replacement benefits, or had reduced benefits, or received public assistance only. Less than one-third of these were currently doing any gainful work, and only 1 in 20 was employed "full time."

For your information the Social Security Bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Price, 35 cents a copy; \$3.75 a year.



A royal treat that reigns supreme in many parts of the world is the king of cabbage—sauerkraut!

As a rule, "sauer cabbage"—as it translates literally—is thought to be a native of Germany, but similar dishes may have been enthroned even earlier elsewhere. Some say that the Chinese invented sauerkraut by fermenting cabbage in wine.

One idea that can make sauerkraut even more regal is a recipe for "Champagne Sauerkraut," offered by famous chef James Beard in a cookbook prepared by him. By sending 25¢ to James Beard Kraut Book, Box 215, Phelps, N. Y., you can get recipes for using sauerkraut in more dishes fit for a king than you can shake a scepter at.

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