

# Social Security Questions And Answers

By D. C. Nichols  
Field Representative

**Q.** We appreciate the many practical Social Security tips and bread-and-butter facts you give from week to week.

Now could you pause to give us a little background information that might throw some light on the program this year when the President, Congress and the American people may be considering some important changes in the Social Security system.

**A.** We'll try--in this and the next column.

Back in the 19th century the Industrial Revolution started a very important trend in the United States. More and more

workers were being employed in industry and, as time passed, fewer and fewer were engaged in agriculture.

By the beginning of the 20th century more Americans were living in cities and towns than on farms. And the trend continued, in this country especially...tending farther and farther away from a simple agrarian culture. For their very survival the American people were adapting to a changing and increasingly man-made environment.

Naturally the workers and their families became more and more dependent on money income for their living. And at the same time they were be-

coming increasingly interdependent in a huge industrial-technological-financial system.

The Great Depression of the 1930's with its massive unemployment and other serious problems, apparently convinced the American people and their Government of the need to take certain innovative and adaptive actions. Particularly, through Social Security they found a systematic and effective way to provide income to Older workers when--due to factors such as their advanced age, the state of their health and ( or ) the state of the economy, prevailing employment policies, and so forth--they could no longer work.

Undoubtedly the Problem of the Aged is complicated by the "aging population" factor. During the 20th century our aged Americans have grown rapidly in numbers and as a percentage of the population (65 and over). In the U.S. as a whole the aged portion of the population increased from 4.1 percent in 1900 to 9.5 percent in 1968; and today 20 million Americans are 65 and older. By 1985 our aged are expected to increase to about 25 million.

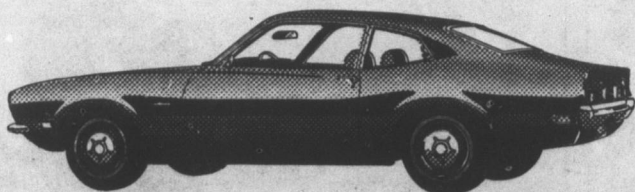
In North Carolina today we have about 390,000 citizens who have passed their 65th birthday. And in Western N. Carolina the problems as well as the concerns of the aged --

and therefore of all of us--are especially great, since proportionately more older people live here than in other sections of the state. According to the most recent available figures the portion of the population 65 and older averages well over 10 percent in all Western North Carolina counties.

Also consider, for example, the urban area of Asheville -- the largest city in Western North Carolina--with 11.4 percent of its population over 65; and Hendersonville with 15.3 percent--the highest percentage of aged citizens in any urban area of the state. Clearly, in Western North Carolina we have our job cut out for us.

## No car so big costs so little.

## All-new '70 1/2 Falcon.



**Economy starts at your Carolina Ford Dealer's**

From all-new Falcon and sporty looking Maverick Grabber on up--we've got the biggest line of economy cars anywhere!

# See Carolina's No.1 low-price dealer. Ford!

## YOUNG AUTO SALES

Burnsville

## Trouble In Corn Field

Troubles with the corn crop often come without warning. When they strike it may already be too late for any remedy, according to E. L. Dillingham, County Extension Agent, Yancey County. Another lecture from mother nature in the school of hard knocks is about all that's gained in this case. However, if the problem can be diagnosed immediately, Dillingham says, there may still be time to correct it. Sometimes really serious crop losses can be avoided by prompt action.

The cause may be obvious but Dillingham says that more than likely the only thing that is obvious is that something is wrong. The cause and the cure are not at all apparent but all is not hopeless. In these cases, whether you are the grower or the dealer who sold the supplies, Dillingham says help is available for the asking. The Soil Testing Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture provides a diagnostic service relative to plant nutrition. The Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University offers help with disease and insect problems.

Dillingham says his office is always at your service and will provide any help needed to put you in contact with other service agencies. So, if you need help, you will have to make the first move. Otherwise, no one else will ever know.

## Jacks Is Grad

Miriam Rosalynde Jacks, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Jacks of Burnsville, N. C. was graduated from Glade Valley School, Glade Valley, N.C. on May 26, 1970.

H. Pat Taylor, Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, delivered the Commencement address to the graduates of the Presbyterian-supported, college-preparatory school which is known for its high percentage of college admissions.