## Social Security Questions And Answ

By Houston Henderson Operations Supervisor

Q. Has the time limit for filing for payment on my 1969 medical bills under Medicare expired?

A. No. You have until December 31, 1970 to file for payment on medical expenses incurred in 1969. Please refer to page 24 of "Your Medicare Handbook,"

Q. I have not worked long enough to qualify for social security benefits. How can I pay into social security so I can receive benefits?

A. The only way you can pay into the Social Security Trust Fund is to actually work at a job or operate a business which is covered by social security.

Q. My child is only four years old. The bank where I have his savings account says he needs a social security number. Can he get a number at age four?

A. Yes. A person may get a social security card at any age. Contact your social security office and ask for the form to get a social security card for him.

Q. My wife died recently. She was drawing social security benefits on my record Will social security pay any thing toward her burial expense?

A. No. If she was receiving wife's benefits on your record, there is no lump sum death benefit payable.

Q. I am drawing social security benefits. Do I have to limit my earnings to \$140 a month for the whole year, or may I earn \$1680 in a months and stop work and still receive benefits for all 12 mos.?

A. You may earn \$1680 any time in the calendar year and still receive all your so cial security benefits. You are considered retired if you earn \$1680 or less for the entire calendar year. Also, benefits may be paid for any month in which your wages are \$140 or less, no matter what your total earnings are for the year.

Q. When my ex- husband begins drawing social security benefits, can I share in these payments?

A. You may if you are at least 62, have not remarried, and he is regularly and substantially contributing to your support.

Q. My husband died recently and I have several of his unpaid doctor bills. Will Medicare take care of them?

A. Yes. After the bills are paid, submit the receipted bills with your Medicare claim for payment.

Q. My husband suffered a stroke and can no longer sign his name on his social security checks. What should I do about getting his checks cashed?

A. Call or write your Social Security office immediately. They'll help you apply for payment of your husbands

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future checks. Don't try to cash any of his checks without his proper endorsement. A telephone call to the Social Security office might take care of this matter without your having to go into the office personally.

Q. I receive monthly social security widow's checks. I own a duplex home. I live in one side and rent out the other side for \$150 a month. Does this income count toward the \$1680 yearly limit on my earnings while I'm getting checks?

A. Rental income is not considered earnings and does not count toward the \$1680 annual earnings test.

Q. My son is 17 years old and gets monthly social security checks on his deceased father's account. He will not be 18 for another 6 months, but he just joined the Navy. Will his checks be stopped?

A. No. As long as he is under 18 and remains unmarried, he continues to be entitled to benefits. However, you must notify your Social

Security office of his new address, and you must furnish the amount of earnings he expects for this full calendar year (including what he'll get from the Navy) since he is still subject to the \$1680 annual earnings test. Just call or write your Social Security office to furnish this information. A personal visit to the office is not necessary.

Q. I have a friend who worked for the same company for many years with me. We both got credit for maximum earnings under social security every year, and we both retired the same year. His social security checks are for quite a bit more than mine. .

A. The amount of your social security retirement check is determined by the amount of your average earnings over a fixed number of years. The number of years used in figuring the average is determined by your date of birth. There are other factors also which affect the benefit amounts. They are all ex-

plained in full detail and in simple terms, in the pamphlet, SSI-47, which you can get free of charge by calling or writing your Social Securi ty office.

Q. I am age 40. I have a wife and three children. I operate my own business, I have ample private insurance to protect my family, and I have a large savings account I don't need social security. Why am I required to continue paying social security taxes?

A. For every man in the nation who provides for his family's future as fully as you do, there are numerous others who either cannot or do not. You are an exceptionally rare

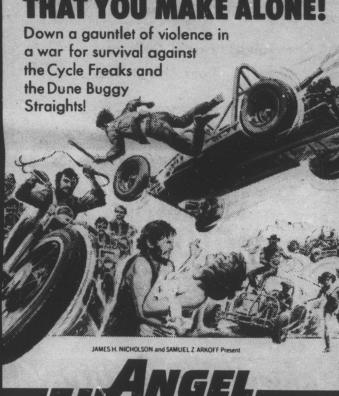
individual, in a financially secure minority of people who are part of a nation whose majority both needs and benefits from a compulsory social insurance program.

If participation in social security were made voluntary, the program could not succeed. You may be surprised to learn exactly how valuable your own social security investment is to your family. Call or write your Social Security office and ask for a free copy of the booklet called "Social Security Information for Young Familie' You may have an additional \$50,000 - \$100,000 of protection you aren't even aware of at this time. /

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