

SOCIAL SECURITY

Q—Why did the social security office send me a letter asking me to apply for Medicare and social security benefits when I'm still working full time?

A—Actually they wanted to advise you that you could enroll for Medicare because the records show that you or your spouse will be 65. Medicare benefits are available to everyone at age 65 even if they are working full time. You should apply for Medicare benefits 3 months before you are 65 to have the protection when you reach 65. If you wait too long, you may miss out on the coverage for a year or more.

Q—My husband had a very bad stroke last month. His doctor says he will never be able to work again. When should he apply for his monthly disability payments from social security?

A—Now. All claims for disability payments should be filed as soon as possible during the first four months of disability. This will give the social security the necessary time to see that your husband's first check arrives on time if his claim is approved.

Q—I will be 65 years old this year. Can I sign up for hospital insurance benefits then?

A—You will need some coverage under social security to be entitled to hospital insurance benefits. However, you should contact the nearest social security office regarding your possible entitlement to medical insurance benefits, even though you have never worked under social security coverage.

T/Sgt. Stewart Assigned To Udorn
U. S. AIR FORCES, Thailand—U. S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Herman O. Stewart, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart of Rt. 2, Kings Mountain, is on duty at Udorn Royal Thai AFB, Thailand.

Special Night Courses Set At Gaston

Dr. Charles Wimmer, Dean of the Liberal Arts Division at Gaston College, announced today that two new courses would be added to the Spring evening schedule. North Carolina History and Music Appreciation will be offered on Tuesday evenings. Each course carries three quarter hours credit.

Mr. James Clark of the Social Studies Department will teach North Carolina History. Music Appreciation will be taught by Mr. Sam Durran, chairman of the Music Department.

The two courses are included in the North Carolina requirements for the elementary teaching certificate. Credits earned are transferable to senior institutions. Either course may be taken by teachers on standard or temporary certificates due to the lack of these requirements. Teacher aides who intend to qualify for elementary certificates are invited to enroll for the courses. The general public is invited to enroll in these courses either for credit or no credit.

The cost of instruction is only three dollars per quarter hour, and prospective students may enroll now. Fees are payable Thursday, March 12, and classes begin Tuesday, March 17. The North Carolina History class meets at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday, and the Music Appreciation class meets at 7:45 p.m. each Tuesday. The Spring Quarter ends on May 28.

Southern Bell construction expenditures surpassed \$100 million for the first time January 1947.

Sergeant Stewart is a fire protection technician with the 432nd Civil Engineering Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Force, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. He previously served at Andrews AFB, Md.

The sergeant is a 1953 graduate of Grover High School.

Some Pottery Could Lead To Poisoning

RALEIGH — In a telegram today to Dr. Jacob Koomen, director of the N. C. State Board of Health, the Food and Drug Administration warned that some Mexican pottery or earthenware imported into the U. S. and used for food purposes, could result in severe illness through lead poisoning.

"Although lead poisoning is a disease not reported to the N. C. State Board of Health," Dr. Koomen explained, "our close working relationship with the Chemistry Division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture — under whose jurisdiction investigation of such matters is carried out — will, I am sure, reveal shortly if the product is being sold in North Carolina."

FDA's investigation of Mexican pottery came in the wake of reports of lead poisoning of a family in the Western U. S. through the continued use of Mexican pottery. Of 28 samples collected 26 contained varying amounts of lead leached from glaze, ranging from traces to significant quantities.

The products may not be marked as made in Mexico, the telegram stated. If, however, there is a suspicion of its Mexican origin, consumers having such pottery or earthenware are urged to discontinue its use with foods immediately. "Lead," Dr. Koomen pointed out, "is a cumulative poison. It is essential, therefore, that its intake by humans be kept to a minimum."

Pottery that shows a rough or dull glaze rather than a glossy one gives the most lead when mildly acid solutions are placed on it.

Although the FDA action is not an embargo on imports of Mexican pottery, the warning at present applies only to pottery of Mexican origin. Commercial shipments tested and found safe will be allowed to enter the United States.

Social Security

Medicare's "Open Season" is now in full swing. It started on January 1st, and will last through March 31st.

"This is a second chance for those who failed to enroll for Medicare at the time their 65th birthday arrived," Social Security District Manager Lex G. Barkley stated yesterday. Those who fail to enroll within 90 days of their 65th birthday month do not have another chance until the "Open Season," which is the first three months of each new year.

Two strikes are against these late enrollees, according to the Gastonia District Manager. They must always pay 10 percent more in their monthly premium than those who enroll on time. Also the Medicare protection cannot start until the July following enrollment.

This "Open Season" is for the Part B applying to doctors' bills, the District Manager emphasized. "Enrollment for Part A applying to hospital coverage may take place at any time after the person has reached the 65th birthday, or even in the three months before," he stated. Those who are eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefits are disqualified for the Part A, as well as aliens who have been in this country less than five years.

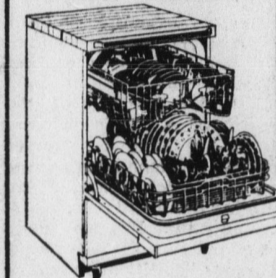
Woodworking Course Set

A course in Introduction To Woodworking sponsored by Cleveland Tech begins Tuesday evening, February 24th, at Shelby Junior High School. Registration will be at 7:00 p.m. with the first class to follow. There is no charge for the classes. They will be held each Tuesday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. for 10 weeks, or until completion of the 30-hour course.

Registration and classes for the woodworking course will be held in the industrial arts area of Shelby Junior High School. Entrance to the industrial arts rooms is on Cora Street. A parking lot is at the rear of the junior high building.



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