The Veterans Corner

Editor's Note: Veterans and their families are asking thousands of questions concerning the benefits their government provides for them through the Veterans Administration. Below are some representative queries. Additional information may be obtained at any VA office.

* * *

This is a special edition of VA questions and Answers of interest to the old veterans and their families. It is a part of VA's participation in this National Senior Citizens month.

Q.—Will a veteran's compensation from VA be reduced if Social Security benefits are increased?

A.—No. VA does not count any income against compensation of service-connected disabilities, including Social Security payments. Income is a factor for pensions for non-service - connected disabilities, however.

Q.—Do VA pensioners over 72 years of age have to file annual income questionnaires anymore?

A.—No, they do not have to file. A recent law excludes pensioners 72 years old and older who draw benefits during two consecutive years from filing annual income questionnaires. However, they still must report changes in income.

Q.—What should I do if any VA benefit check does not arrive on time?

A. Two things. (a) Wait long enough to be sure the mails have cleared. (b) Write to the VA regional office which has your claim file, including your name, if you're a veteran, or the deceased veteran's name if it is a death claim, and your claim number. Never write the Treasury Department, as this will only prolong the delay in receiving your check.

Q.—Several years ago I elected to receive benefits under the new pension law because my income exceeded the $1,600 annual income limitation that would result in termination of benefits under the old pension law. Now that income limitations under the old laws have been increased, can I go back to drawing pension under the old law?

A. No. Once a pensioner has chosen benefits under the new law, he cannot go back to the old law.

Q.—Someone told me that I can apply for a home guarantee loan under the GI bill even though I served during World War II. Is this true?

A.—Expiration dates on GI loan eligibility were removed in 1970. Also, the eligibility of World War II and Korean veterans was restored where their entitlement had expired. Eligibility for GI lons now runs until you have used it. You may obtain the necessary information and forms from your nearest VA office.

Q.—I would like to know whom my husband has designated beneficiary of his government life insurance. Wher may I obtain this information?

A.—This information can not be disclosed to anyone other than the insured or his duly insured's lifetime, unless authorized by the insured or his fiduciary.

Q.—Is there a deadline for veterans to apply for VA hospital care?

A.—No. There is no deadline if a veteran is eligible, needs it, and a bed is available. Beds are always available at VA hospitals for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Q.—I hear some national cemeteries have been closed and others will son close due to lack of space. If the cemetery of the veteran's choice closes, will VA pay an additional burial allowance toward purchase of a plot in a private cemetery?

A.—No. The law permits VA to pay up to the statuatory amximum of $250 burial allowance upon death of a veteran. Insurance and survivor benefits are a matter of individuals eligibility.

Q.—My husband was a veteran. He passed away recently and I am wondering if he is eligible for a headstone.

A.—Yes. Any deceased veteran whose last period of military service was terminated honorably is eligible for this benefit administered by the army.

Q.—An extra large dividend put me over the income limit this year. Will this cause my VA pension to be discontinued?

A.—No. As long as this income could not have been anticipated and was of a non-recurring nature it will have no effect on your pension.

Q.—If a veteran's widod who draws death pension benefits is a patient in a nursing home and is in need of regular aid and attendance, is she eligible for additional pension?

A.—Yes, she is entitled to an additional special monthly pension of $55 under the current law. Widows requiring regular regular aid and attendance are entitled to an additional $50 monthly under the "old" law.

A.—Yes, VA has 16 of these facilities. Suggest you advise your relative of this. Any VA office will help him file an application for this benefit.

Q.—I received a VA pension check made out to my husband who died last month. Shall I return it, and if I do, will VA reissue the check to me?

A. Yes, you must return the check. If you are eligible for a widow's pension, your first check from VA will be issued at your husband's rate of payment, if his rate was greater than yours. Thereafter, you will receive widow's pension rates.

Q.—With diminishing space in national cemeteries I have been wondering whether I might be buried in a VA cemetery. Can the money VA pays for burial be used this way?

A.—VA does not have a cemetery system of its own. It has a few small plots near VA hospitals and domiciliaries where veterans who have died in these facilities have been buried, but most of this space is now full. Chances are you could not be buried anywhere near your home if you chose one of the few available plots. The VA burial expense payment can be made regardless of the burial place.

Q.—I am drawing VA pension under the so-called "old law," and wonder if I can change to the "new law?"

A.—Yes. Before deciding, however, we suggest you discuss it with a VA representative.

No Arsenal For Gardeners

Controlling insects in the home garden is a job that can be handled by one or two good insecticides. There's no need to stockpile an arsenal for the job.

Gardeners, especially the less experienced ones, may get "carried away" with all the materials available for killing bugs and feel compelled to buy some of each one. This multiplies the danger of having poisons around the house, in addition to increasing costs.

Dr. H. E. Scott, extension entomologist at North Carolina State University, said two materials that have broad application for garden use are malathion and sevin. Another product, Gardona, is also available for general use but has more limited application.

"Either malathion or sevin should provide adequate insect control in most gardens," Dr. Scott said. "Both are safe when used as directed by the manufacturer."

Aphids, which are always a problem on a wide variety of vegetables, are best controlled with malathion. However, sevin may give better control on such pests as the bean beetle, tomato fruitworm and the imported cabageworm (cabage butterfly).

Malathion is available as an emulsifiable concentrate, wettable powder or dust. Sevin comes as a wettable powder, dust or as a 'flowable" formulation to be mixed with water.

Dr. Scott said gardeners will no longer be able to find garden insecticides containing DDT. This product was officially removed from the market effective Dec. 31, 1972. He added that gardeners shouldn't regard this as much of a loss since the other products that are available are more effective in garden insect control. NCSU hasn't suggested using DDT in home gardens for several years.

Scott cautioned that malathion, sevin and all other insecticides should be used only as directed on the container label; that the materials should be kept well out of reach of children, preferably locked up; and that empty containers should be disposed of properly.

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

AIDING INDIANS

Trained programs geared to the needs of American Indian communities are getting under way in five school of social work as a result of new grants totaling nearly $350,000 awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health of HEW's Health Service and Mental Health Administration.

Members of the American Indian communities involved played an important part in the planning and development of each of these innovative pograms.

In cooperation with the Phoenix Indian School, Arizona State University at Tempe plans improvement in educating Indians in boarding schools and in training social workers to serve in the Rocky Mountain Southwest region.

Down in Florida, Barry College of Miami Shores aims to develop leadership potential among Seninole Indians and to aid Indians in Southeast Florida.

In Oklahoma, Indians are to be recruited educated, and supported to become social workers for their people, this training through the University of Oklahoma, will provide field experience in eastern Oklahma.

By employing Indian faculty and recruting Indian and native Alaskan students, the Portland Oregon State University seeks to provide increased educational and career opportunities in the field of social work.

The School of Social Work of the University of Denver will utilize its grants to help enhance social work educational opportunities not only for American Indians, but also for Mexican Americans and the black community.

Two additional NIMH projects, now in their second year, also focus on increasing training opportunities for American Indians in social service, through programs at the University of Utah and through the State University of New York. In all, these training programs represent one important aspect along with research and other activities of NIMH efforts to improve the mental health of our minorities.

Southern Life Reports Gains

In reporting on the significant gains made by Southern Life Insurance company in 1972, local representative Donald C. Anderson, manager, stated the yearend figures surpassed all previous highs in every area of its total operations.

Sales of $161,488,220 were made by representatives in the three sales divisions in the company's 12 state operating area, as compared with the $153 million the previous year. Insurance in force increased by $57,147,836, bringing the tatal in force to $864,164,763, exclusive of $68,183,082 servicemen's group life insurance in which Southern Life is a participating company.

Assets increased by $9,232,050 to a total of $85,184,051. Mortgage loans on real estate in the Southern Life operating area continued to be prominent in its investment portfolio, stated Anderson. Nwe Loans of $7,875,051 were made during the year, increasing the total mortgage loan investment to $41,587,172.

Benefits of $4,764,650 paid during the year to policyowners and beneficiaries ncreased the accumulated total pad since the company was organized in 1927 to $57,700,234. Effective January 1, 1973, the interst paid on proceeds of polcies left on deposit with the company was increased to 5 1-2 per cent.

Representing Southern Life in the local office are staff manager, J. B. Stevens and agents O. H. Miller, E. P. McFall, C. A. Givens, J. E. Roberts, E. A. Givens, W. P. Causby.

ON DEAN'S LIST

Joan Fipps, sophomore student at Burnswick college, was listed on the dean's list for the past semester. She is granddaughter of Mrs. Ila Fipps of Kings Mountain and the late Howard Fipps.

ACCENT ON AGRICULTURE

COLLISION COURSE

Food supply and food purity seem to be on a collision course.

Recently, an agricultural research expert predicted that this country will find it necessary to use much larger quantities of commercial fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and other chemicals required in producing food if we are to meet the needs of this nation and those depending on our export trade.

At the same time, government regulations are eliminating or restricting the use of one chemical after another. Some of the "reasons" for outlawing their use in crop and livestock production seem pretty thin.

The Food and Drug Administration announced a ban on diethylstilbestrol (DES) implants in cattle and sheep effective April 27. FDA earlier had banned use of the growth stimulant in animal feed on January 1.

The FDA banned the use of DES in animal feed even though in the Federal Register— in which proposed rules are published—it said repeatedly that the Commissioner of the FDS has no reason to believe that use of DES in animal feed represents a public health hazard. Yet, it seems that because producers and users of the product could not prove that it was not a health hazard, it was dropped.

If this kind of reasoning and enforcement prevails and spreads clear across the agricultural scene, we may find our people and those overseas who depend upon us a lot hungrier than we ever thought possible.

The total banning of DES involved a product which has been used for more efficient food production for 20 years with no know instance of harm to humans. The action will, unfortunately, result in increased food costs to the consumer.

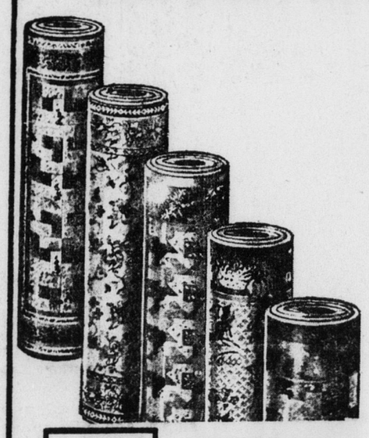
LOOK! RUG SALE!

PERMA-VINYL

ROOM SIZE RUGS

New Beauty! New Designs!

FOR EVERY ROOM IN YOUR HOME!



12 x 15
12 x 12
12 x 9

YOUR CHOICE AT ONE LOW PRICE ONLY

$18.88

$1.00 Delivers

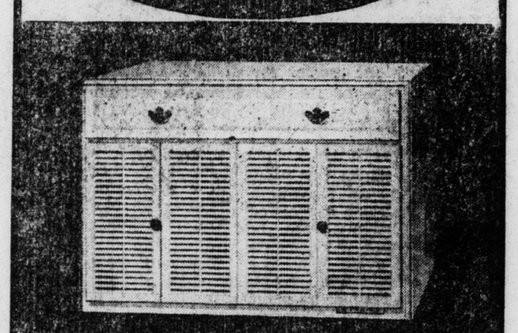
THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

COOPER'S

COME ON NOW Carrier

. . . and Save $60.00 during our pre-season

BIG 19 SALE



19,000 BTU Carrier Cosmopolitan

Model 51 ME 2103

Not a stripped-down special model, but a top-of-the-line Carrier. Besides the TOP SECRET FEATURES it has AUTOMATIC EVENTEMP THERMOSTAT . . . LONG LIFE COMPRESSOR . . . WEATHER ARMOR CASING . . . and many others. NOW, for a limited time only, you can make a handsome $60 saving. Be ready for the first hot days. See us now while we have an ample supply.

Regular In-Season Price	$359.95
Big 19 Sale Price	$299.95
YOU SAVE	$60.00

BRIDGES RADIO & TV

SALES & SERVICE

N. Piedmont Ave.

GREAT SELECTION

Light and Lively..... SUMMER SUITS

Double Knits and Stretch Wovens

Regulars - Longs - Shorts

Sizes 35 to 50

"MOUNTAINEERS"
$59.99 to $75.00

"CRICKATEERS"
$75.00 to $95.00

"CURLEES"
$95.00 & $99.50

"GRIFFONS"
$110.00 & $120.00

"CRICKATEER"
3 PIECE SUITS
Coat - Matching Pants and Contrasting Sport Pants
$95.00 & $99.50

COOL - COMFORTABLE
SMARTLY STYLED

SPORTCOATS

Wonderful Selection of Solid Blazers - Plaids and Checks in 100% Polyesters, Lasting Good Looks and Comfort

TAILORED BY

"Mountaineer" "Curlee" and "Crickateer"

$45.00 to $65.00

LAY-A-WAY NOW FOR FATHER'S DAY

PLONK'S