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OFFICIAL NOTICE

Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Publications before deadline of 1 p.m. of the day preceding publication.

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Smith, Gerald Max
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Breeding

Disertation: A GENETIC ANALYSIS OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG RATES OF GROWTH, RATE OF MATURING, BODY SIZE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN BEEF CATTLE
Time: December 20, 1973 at 10:00 a.m.
Place: Room 203 AI Building
George W. Kunze
Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Perry, Jr., Robert Terrell
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering

Disertation: HEATING RATES IN BLANKETS OF FUSION REACTORS.
Time: December 20, 1973 at 1:30 p.m.
Place: 129-A Zachry Engineering Center
George W. Kunze
Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Smith, Gail McBride
Degree: Ph.D. in English

Disertation: A STUDY OF PROSE FICTION IN THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY AND HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE, 1857-1861
Time: December 21, 1973 at 8:30 a.m.
Place: Room 507 in University Education Center
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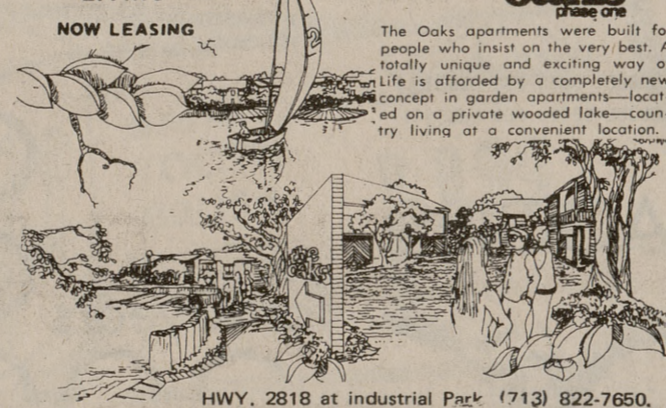
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Growing Costs Hurt Aged Necessities Now Luxuries

By DAVID STASNY

Hilda Beck, 76, is the widow of a minister. When her husband died, the couple owned a home, and she was physically able to care for herself. But within a short time, the wages for her maid and gardener tripled. Necessary living expenses steadily climbed, though her pension from the church did not. She finally entered a retirement home to ease the financial strain. Though life there is comfortable, she has had to continue cutting expenses.

"The economy decides for us," she says. Even her car was relinquished in the face of rising gasoline prices.

Mrs. Beck is one of the lucky ones. However, the situation is near critical for many.

Have the aged failed to adequately prepare? Sen. Charles H. Percy, a member of the Senate special committee on aging, answers the question in the November, 1972, issue of Readers' Digest:

"Since 1967 inflation has raised living costs by 25 percent. And inflation is cruellest to those whose incomes are fixed, because it has been severest in areas that mean most to the elderly. Since 1967, the costs of semi-private hospital rooms have risen 75 percent, of medical care 33 percent, of property taxes 45 percent. When this kind of financial pressure is put on a fixed budget it does not take long for the savings of a lifetime to dissolve."

Social Security benefits and retirement programs have a long history of inadequacy and failure. Holly Rees, a district manager for the Social Security Administration in Texas, believes that Social Security alone is not sufficient and was never intended by Congress to be so.

"Generally, we find the typical retiree is a homeowner, with his home paid for. About 30 percent receive some other retirement benefits." This is considered when the base for Social Security benefits is established. The average widow receives about \$1,700, well below the poverty line.

One partial solution to the plight of the retiree might seem to be obvious—stop arbitrarily retiring the able before their time. Many in the work force who have reached the magic age of 65 are fully qualified to continue their employment. Dr. R. L. Skrabanek, a sociologist at TAMU, has studied the reasons why the age limit was established and has withstood attack.

"If I were an administrator, I would be very comfortable with that rule. The administration does not have to make a decision on who stays and who goes. Also, the older you get the more susceptible you are to sickness and accidents."

He is convinced that voters, including the elderly, would not be in favor of an age extension anyway.

"If any voting takes place, they're

not going to vote in favor of it to begin with. People are afraid they're not going to live beyond retirement age to get anything back out of the system."

Dr. R. D. Lewis, chairman of the Brazos County chapter of the Texas Governor's Committee on Aging, disagrees.

"Research shows that senior employees are more regular and more dependable, in the absence of health problems. The setting of an arbitrary day for retirement is discriminatory." He feels there is strong support for extending retirement age limits.

Increased benefits from Social Security would, of course, have a more widespread effect. But problems again arise.

The Jan. 14, 1973, issue of the New York Times Magazine carried an article by Edwin L. Dale, Jr. reflecting on the problems of Social Security financing. Dale says that the original idea was to relate the Social Security premiums a person would receive to his earnings while he worked.

"This is still theoretically the case for workers now working, but is not true for the pensioners." Present benefits, he said, far exceed original expectations.

"All pretense of an 'actuarial' trust fund for Social Security was abandoned, and Congress provided that Social Security taxes would exactly equal benefits each year." It has become a strictly "pay-as-you-go" system.

Ordinarily this type of funding would not have serious consequences. But Dr. Skrabanek points out that circumstances present a serious problem. These circumstances center on the declining birth rate.

"What will happen, as we bring in fewer youngsters, and as life expectancies increase, we are going to have more and more old people relative to the total population."

He noted that while the total population of the U.S. in the last 10 years has increased by 16 percent, the aged (65 and over) have increased by 33 percent.

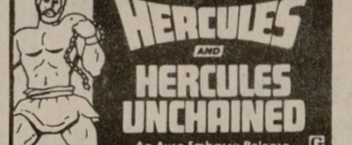
The earlier eras of high birth rates will continue to increase the ranks of the aged, while the more recent

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A "MERRY CHRISTMAS" & A VERY HAPPY "NEW YEAR"



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WEST SCREEN AT 7:00 P. M. "LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE" (R)

At 8:45 p. m. "STRANGE VENGEANCE OF ROSALIE" (R)

EAST SCREEN AT 7:05 P. M. "INVASION OF THE BEE GIRL" (R)

At 8:45 p. m. "THE BIG DOLL HOUSE" (R)

reduced birth rate puts fewer workers in the economy. The difficulty of financing generous pension in the future becomes obvious.

Nevertheless, last October Congress passed an escalation clause which would allow for automatic increases in Social Security payments to offset the effects of inflation. Increases, said Lewis, would occur only once a year and administrative expense. The law would be 1974.

Dr. Lewis stressed the need for additional legislation.

"Those from 65 to 72 may earn more than \$2,100 per year without Social Security payments declining," he said, adding that after age 72 they may earn all they want without reductions. (A current Social Security Administration pamphlet says that the limit has been raised to \$2,400 in 1974.) Lewis would like to see it raised to at least \$3,000.

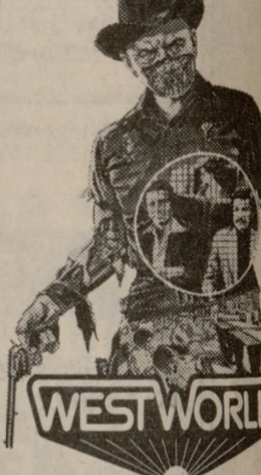
There is also a \$3,000 home ownership allowance for the aged for tax purposes, but this generally has been considered insufficient, and does not aid the renter at all.

Though studies on problems of the aged are plentiful, legislation has been scarce.

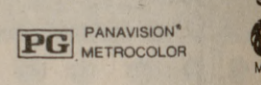
Those with a knowledge of problems facing the aged seem to agree that the basic problem of the aged is not inflation, but apathy.



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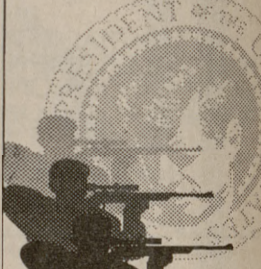


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