

Social Security Bureau Mum On Personal Facts

The Social Security Administration won't tell. This Federal agency keeps its mouth shut, and some of the 800,000 Americans who hold social security cards would be mighty unhappy if it didn't.

Concentrated in the accounting operations division of its Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance in Baltimore are more personnel facts and figures about more Americans than in any other place in the country. Just how old is your mother-in-law? The Social Security Admin-

istration might know, but it won't tell. How much did your ex-wife earn last year? The record is there, but only she can get that information—and she already knows.

When the Social Security Administration asks for and gets from a worker the information necessary to set up and identify his account, it pledges to regard such information as confidential and to withhold it from all but authorized persons.

The worker whose boss thinks he is ten years younger than he is need have no fear that his secret will come to light. It is guarded from prying eyes at all times of the day and night by guards whose sole duty is to keep the records safe.

Even Bad Ones Protected

The Social Security Administration's local office receives re-

quests each week for aid in locating missing husbands, absconding treasurers, or persons who find it easier to move than to pay bills. Manager Carl D. Monroe reports, and it is a dull week at the Eugene field office which does not produce several telephone calls from people who cash checks on the basis of social security card identification.

"In every case," Monroe stated, "we must tell the caller that our records are for social security purposes only and that we are not permitted to release any information. Without such protection to individuals, we would no longer get the accurate information necessary, and we would soon be spending more time furnishing information than we now put on the bookkeeping the law requires."

"Apple a Day" Also Applies to Dentists

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—That apple a day business applies to dentists, too.

Dr. Henry M. Goldman of Boston told 2000 members of the State Dental Association's annual meeting that eating an apple or a piece of celery after a meal is excellent dental hygiene. He urged substitution of such items for tooth-decaying soft desserts. He added:

"It's not exactly polite, but running your tongue through your mouth after eating the way animals do, and smacking your lips helps to dislodge food particles. The best measure, of course, is to brush your teeth right after eating. But in our civilization, we rarely find the necessary time."

Oakland Student Commissioned In Air Force Reserve

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis.—Ralph H. Holcomb of Oakland, a sophomore in agriculture here, was recently awarded his bars in what is believed to be the first group in the United States to be commissioned reserve second lieutenants in the United States Air Force Reserve from an ROTC unit.

Oregon State's air force unit in ROTC was established in Oct., 1946 by Lt. Col. Donald Nance, an OSC graduate, considerably in advance of similar units at other institutions. Col. M. E. Scott,

commandant of the ROTC, believes the eight students are the first to be commissioned from an ROTC air force unit in this country.

Holcomb is a graduate of Elkton, Oregon, high school and is the son of Vincent K. Holcomb of Oakland. All eight men are World War II veterans who enrolled in the advance ROTC here two years ago and then transferred into the air unit when it was activated. All qualified for enrolling directly in the advanced ROTC by reason of their previous war service. They will continue their college courses until they finish work for their degrees, unless called to active duty.

Considerably larger groups here and at other colleges will qualify for commissions at the close of spring term.

Ontario Youth Winner In Future Farming Oratory

PORTLAND — (AP) — Rodney Frakes, of Ontario, Ore., won the state title in a Future Farmers of America speaking contest and carried off the annual Grange plaque.

He will represent the state at a regional meet at Salt Lake City, Utah, May 3, against speakers of 11 western states.

Norman Goetze, Hillsboro, was second and Richard Rawlinson, Enterprise, was third in the contest.

The six district winners competing included James McDowell, Salem, and Joseph Wright, Grants Pass.

In the 16th Century, many men wore "cramp rings" which they believe prevent paralysis.

ACH! SUCH WORDS

BERLIN — (AP) — Some Berlin Germans are worrying about what's happening to their language under the impact of the occupation armies—especially the widespread adoption of American slang.

A letter to the British-licensed newspaper Telegraf complained it was bad enough when the American expressions of "Okay," "Hello there," and "Oh, Baby" found widespread usage.

"But," the writer continued, "must we use 'bye-bye' or 'adieus' instead of our own 'auf wiedersehen'?"

"True enough, we can't even buy a gown or a perfume these days unless it has a French or English name. But must we give up our own words and convert our whole language into slang?"



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