

Vets Will Get \$236 Million in Insurance Dividends This Year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some 5,350,000 veterans will receive about 236 million dollars in dividends on Veterans administration insurance during 1956.

Veterans Administrator Harvey V. Higley, announcing this today, said all the payments will be "regular annual dividends, not special dividends."

However, some 20,000 veterans holding U.S. Government Life Insurance term policies will get their first dividend in 25 years, sharing about one million dollars.

A VA spokesman said there was no political significance in the fact that these veterans received their last dividend in 1932, during the Republican administration of President Herbert Hoover, and

that their next "annual" dividend, 25 years later, was announced in this election year by the Eisenhower administration.

He pointed to the formal announcement, which said that:

"Up until recently the mortality and disability experience among these term policy holders has not been good enough to warrant the payment of a dividend. However, the continuing good trend of recent years has made it possible to pay a dividend on this plan for the first time in 25 years."

There will be 210 million dollars in 1957 dividends for some five million veterans holding National Service Life Insurance, about 25 million dollars more than was made available for 1956 dividends.

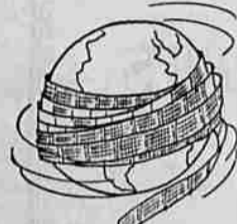


PERRY, Mich.—The muscles of her arm can be seen straining as Mrs. Agnes Nichols, 77, of Battle Creek, tries to brace the roof of her car being crushed beneath a slowly-settling semi-trailer. An unidentified rescue volunteer squeezes his nose in a nervous gesture as he tries to comfort the woman. Mrs. Nichols and her husband, William, 74, escaped with only bruises. (AP Wire-photo)

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Shakespeare Popularity On Increase

LONDON (AP)—The plays of William Shakespeare have always topped the classics in popularity but never have they been so popular as they are in Britain today.

Whether it's just the British habit of grabbing at any old tradition with both hands or a new cultural upsurge, the theatrical world today is agog over what it calls "the Shakespeare boom."

For the past three years the Old Vic Theatre Company in London has presented nothing but Shakespeare and has played to almost persistently full houses. Earlier, when Shakespeare shared the stage with other authors, the Old Vic Theatre was generally half full.

At Stratford-on-Avon, birthplace of the famed playwright, where the season or "Shakespeare Festival" now runs from April to November, the Stratford Memorial Theatre packs in some 375,000 people a year.

This pretty Warwickshire town on the banks of Avon lives on its native son and living has never been so good. The productions at the Memorial Theatre have become lavish affairs, with costumes and decor for a single play often costing as much as \$20,000.

But Shakespeare has by no means been confined to these two theatres. There have been an unusually large number of Shakespeare plays presented in London's West End in recent years,

and almost without exception, they have been enormous successes.

Until a year ago the increase in the popularity of "Shakespeare was confined to London and Stratford but today the whole country is Shakespeare conscious.

The Old Vic company has been touring, with Shakespeare plays for years but of late has been making much more extensive tours. And last year, for the first time, the Stratford company toured Britain's leading provincial towns.

Shakespeare ranks undoubtedly as Britain's most profitable "invisible export." Thousands of overseas visitors spend thousands of dollars, yen, marks, kroner or what have you attending plays at Stratford, at the Old Vic and at the Oper Air Theatre in London's Regent Park, where the

works of Shakespeare are frequently performed.

Then too both the Stratford and Old Vic companies have been making extensive tours abroad, each paying off handsomely in hard cash and public acclaim.

And the movies have scored some big Shakespeare successes recently. London Films claim that in Britain their receipts from the film "Richard III" were as great as for any film they have made in recent years.

Japan. The Shakespeare films also have earned big money on television.

In Britain today it's almost impossible to escape Shakespeare. His plays go on almost non-stop in the theatre, in the cinema, on television and on radio.

The British Broadcasting Corporation for years has been broadcasting eight major products a year and is planning to increase the amount of time devoted to Shakespeare.



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