

Medicare Program Pays \$8.4 Billion First Two Years

In its first two years of operation, Medicare has paid \$8.4 billion toward the hospital and doctor bills of the Nation's elderly people.

Taking note of the anniversary of the comprehensive program of health insurance for the aged, which began July 1, 1966, President Johnson stated that the program has meant "new hope and renewed health that light up thousands of lives in every community in this land."

"Medicare has paid the expenses incurred in 10.6 million hospital stays and 45 million medical bills," he said, "and more than one million elderly persons have received post-hospital care in nursing homes and in their own homes."

Payments under the hospital insurance program totaled \$6.3 billion for the 2 year period and a total of \$2.1 billion was paid out under the supplementary medical insurance program.

According to Robert M. Ball, Commissioner of Social Security, 19.7 million older people 65 and over, just about everyone in that age group is now covered under the basic hospital insurance part of Medicare, Ball said, and 18.6 million of them or 95 percent, have enrolled in the voluntary medical insurance part that helps pay doctor bills and a wide variety of other medical expenses in and out of the hospital.

Since January 1, 1967 there have been 640,000 admissions of older people to extended care facilities for post-hospital care and 485,000 home health care plans have been set up for older people to receive visits from visiting nurses, physical therapists, and other health care specialists. Bills have been paid for 1.4 million visits of older people to the hospital for outpatient diagnostic services.

Involved with the Government in the operation of the Medicare program are 123 private insurance organizations—Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans and private insurance companies who receive and pay Medicare bills under contract with the Federal Government; 6,900 participating hospitals; 4,700 participating extended care facilities; 2,100 home health agencies; 2,550 certified independent laboratories; and agencies of 50 different states.

Vets Loans Show 14 Percent Gain; Morrow Total 109

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs granted farm and home loans to 4,488 veterans during fiscal 1967-68 in the amount of \$60,794,600. H. C. Saalfeld, director, reported today.

This was the highest dollar volume on record for a fiscal year and the second highest in loans. It awas a 14 percent gain in dollar volume and a 3 percent gain in loans over 1966-67.

In Morrow county last year, loans were granted to four veterans in the amount of \$58,200, compared with nine loans in 1966-67 for \$99,850.

Since the loan programs started in 1945, loans have gone to 109 veterans in this county in the amount of \$854,500. State-wide, 62,699 loans have been granted in the amount of \$591,539,124.

Borrowers have repaid \$908.7 million of this in principal and \$105.4 million in interest, with monthly repayments currently averaging over \$4 million. Of the 62,699 loans, 35,199 were outstanding June 30 in the amount of \$358,056,038.

Saalfeld said the loan program continues to earn a net revenue after paying all expenses of the loan program and the service and coordination division, and the State's share of costs for maintaining the rehabilitation programs of veterans' organizations and county service officers.

This net revenue last year was \$2,752,136, bringing the total earnings since 1945 to \$24,396,353.

By action of the special session of the 1967 Legislature, \$13,617,574 of these earnings revert to the State's general fund August 15, leaving the Department \$10,778,779 as a reserve representing 3 percent of loans outstanding. This makes a total of \$21,635,479 that have been transferred from loan earnings to the general fund.

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HAPPY CANYON princesses for 1968 at Pendleton are two girls who won the Round-Up American beauty contests in 1966 and 1967. Lillian Moses, 17, is the daughter of Dolores Moses and is a senior at Pendleton High school. She is of the Yakima tribe and won the 1966 Round-Up beauty title. Carla Walker (right), 16, is the daughter of Charlotte Williams, and is a junior at Pendleton High school. She is a member of the Klamath tribe and holds the 1967 Round-Up beauty title.

World Champion Cowboys To Compete at State Fair

No less than four world champion cowboys, with more promised, have signed up to compete in the All America Rodeo and Horse Show at the 1968 Oregon State Fair, August 24-September 2 in Salem. The confirmation was made by State Fair Commission Vice-Chairman Sanford Nemerovsky of Eugene.

Topping the growing list of competitors is present National all-around leader Larry Mahan. The Brooks, Oregon, cowboy, who was the 1966 and 1967 National All Around Cowboy, recently spent three weeks in Spain but upon his return immediately resumed his winning ways at the St. Paul and Eugene, Oregon rodeos and the Calgary Stampede. Mahan, only 24, has won \$21,334 this year. Since the start of 1966 he's won \$113,688 in the pro arena.

State Fair Manager Robert Stevens said Nemerovsky had also received confirmation on other rodeo stars including Jack Roddy, San Jose, Calif., currently the national steer wrestling leader, Mark Schrickler of Sutherlin, Ore., runnerup for the 1965 and 1967 All Around title and now eighth in that competition and third nationally in steer wrestling, and Jackie Wright of Eastern Oregon's John Day country, a favorite from the West Coast to Madison Square Garden. Roddy, besides leading the country in steer wrestling, is third in all around competition with \$16,788 in winnings.

America's top rodeo clown, Wilbur Plaugher, a star in Walt Disney's movie "Run Appaloosa Run", will also be a headliner at the fair rodeo.

The Leon Adams Family will bring the most unique act of its kind to the rodeo when it performs by riding astride trained Brahma bulls who also leap through hoops of fire.

The rodeo, sanctioned by the Rodeo Cowboys Association, will have 14 performances this year and, for the first time, will select a champion in each event and an all-around champion cowboy.

Equally exciting is the All New All America State Fair Horse Show featuring 103 performance events and 134 breeding classes for light and draft horses, all free except for those times when the show is paired with the Rodeo. Top National "A" Ratings have assured the presence of leading stables and horses from throughout the West, many now in the running

Vacationers Enjoy Trip to Mid-West

Mrs. Ray Bailey and Mrs. Anna Schwarzin returned early last week from a two week's vacation trip which took them to Cheyenne, Wyo., from where they went their separate ways to spend time visiting friends and relatives.

From Cheyenne, Mrs. Bailey traveled by bus to Rapid City, S. D., where she was met by her son-in-law and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Harley Harris, and family for the trip to their home at Keystone. While visiting in the area, Mrs. Bailey had the opportunity to visit Mt. Rushmore, located only three miles from the Harris family home.

Mrs. Schwarzin spent her time visiting her father, George Mayberry, at Jetmore, Kan., and from there traveled to Wichita to visit with several cousins and her brother, Joe Heath. On the return trip she stopped in Colorado Springs, Colo., to see friends.

After meeting Mrs. Bailey in Cheyenne for their return trip, the couple stopped in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they toured the Temple Square and enjoyed a boat ride on the Great Salt Lake. The couple did much sightseeing along the way home and enjoyed touring several state and national parks.



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Margaret Marks Tells of Fulanis, Nomads of Africa

(Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles written by Margaret Marks, Heppner High school graduate, during her stay in Africa where her father is on agricultural assignment).

On another trip to the northern Fulani grasslands I was fortunate in traveling through Fulani lands and became fascinated with these people, the nomads of Africa.

They are nomads as they travel with their livestock wherever the grass is best. They set up villages and settle down for maybe six months to five years, then they travel. They vacate their villages and maybe when moving find another vacated village and settle there for some time.

The aristocrats of Africa these people are tall and slim and carry their heads high, not haughtily but proudly. They do not have Negroid features, but fine features and their skins are not black but brown. The women are very beautiful and have relatively straight hair which they wear braided.

While on a trip to a small village out of Bamenda we passed a tribe of Fulanis enroute to a new home. It reminded me

so much of the pictures I had seen of the American Indians moving across the plains. The men were riding the horses and driving the cattle. Women and children walked behind, all were carrying some sort of load. Some of the horses were laden with a few pots, mats, blankets, extra clothing, and food. The colts and extra horses trailed behind.

Livestock Good
The Fulani livestock are the best I have seen in Cameroon. Fulani make up the largest percentage of all the cattle in the country. They are the water buffalo type with long horns and humps. Most of them found out on the grasslands are in good shape. Fulani herds appear well tended, too, and often times look as if they are the same bloodline.

The Fulani horses are beautiful animals. They are small, but strong and usually high-spirited. The wealth of a Fulani man is measured in his ownership of horses, cattle, and wives. The Fulanis are excellent riders, like the man and horse was one animal. Even the small children are quite good.

Of the Fulanis I have met, they were friendly and inquisitive. They want to know as much about you as you do about them. They are anxious to learn something new and are very helpful in answering your questions.

The Fulani villages are very different from other villages. Around each house is a mat fence to insure their privacy. The fences have gates as the houses have doors, which most don't in other villages. The compound is neat and clean both inside and out. The walls of the homes are made of adobe brick and the round roofs of grass. Fulani villages are usually seen on top of hills in remote places.

Independent People
They are an independent people and keep pretty much to themselves. They do not intermarry. They have their own markets and seem to prefer to trade with their own people when in public markets.

Fulani men often wear full Fulani dress which is a flowing robe with trousers and a shirt underneath. They have a distinctive hat which looks like a cross between a sombrero and a Stetson. Women wear full-length dress at all times. Even the young girls wear long robes, which completely cover them.

The men and boys have shaved heads. I saw a Fulani girl beside a creek giving her little brother a haircut one day. The girl looked about 10 years old, her brother not older than three. She would place a little water on his head, lather it up, and then shave the fuzz off with a straight edge razor blade. Needless to say the little boy sat perfectly still and when the haircut was finished there were no cuts, a shiny head, and a pleased little boy.

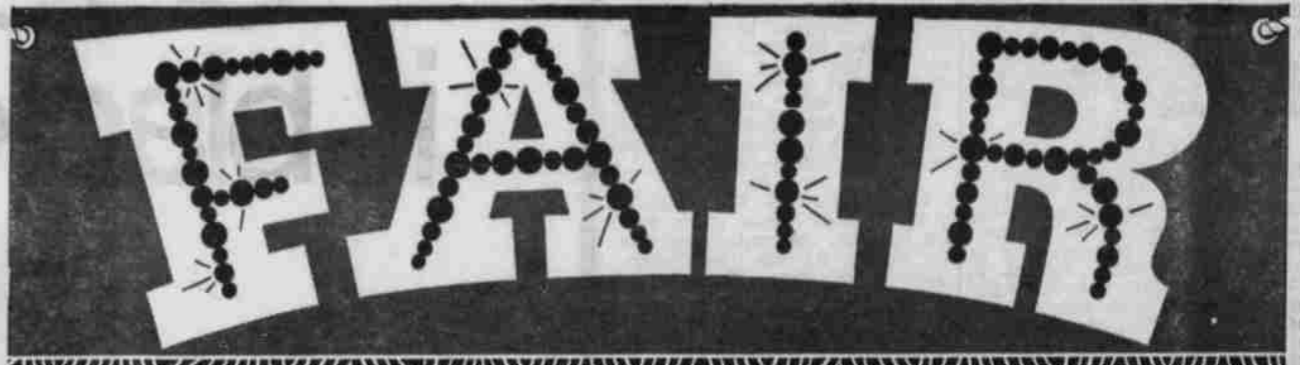
Mrs. Nona Sowell and Marsha enjoyed the week of July 21-27 on a vacation trip to points of interest on the northern beaches, while staying at Long Beach, Wn. The couple traveled to Astoria for a short time and on to Portland for shopping. Mrs. Sowell was on vacation from her work in the office of Kinzua Corporation.

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