

Medicare Patients To Pay First \$44 Of Hospital Bills

Beginning in January, an older person who goes to the hospital under Medicare will be responsible for the first \$44.00 of his hospital bill, Vern Welz, social security district manager, said. The \$4.00 increase (from the present \$40.00 deductible) results from a provision in the law requiring an annual review of the deductible amount.

The law specifies that if the annual review shows that hospital costs have changed significantly, the hospital deductible amount must be adjusted for the following year. Necessary changes are to be made in \$4.00 steps to avoid small annual changes.

Following the formula in the law, and figuring the ratio of inpatient hospital costs under Medicare in 1966 with those in 1967, the deductible amount for 1969 worked out to \$45.36. Rounded to the nearest multiple of \$4.00, this will make the deductible \$44.00 for 1969.

The change also applies to the dollar amounts a Medicare beneficiary pays toward a hospital stay of more than 60 days, or a posthospital extended care stay of more than 20 days.

These amounts therefore will also increase by 10 percent, effective January 1—to \$11.00 a day for the 61st through the 90th day of a hospital stay; to \$5.50 for the 20th to the 100th day of a stay in a posthospital extended care facility; and to \$22.00 a day for each day of the lifetime reserve of 60 days. This applies only to the hospital insurance part of Medicare and does not affect the financing of the supplementary medical insurance—the voluntary program which covers doctor bills and a wide variety of other medical services.

Mrs. Claude (Hoppy) Graham flew to Eugene from Pendleton Saturday to spend a few days with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Damon. Mr. Graham took her to Pendleton early Saturday to catch the plane, allowing two hours, but because of bad weather, barely made it in time. Mrs. Graham and the Damons are planning to attend a wedding in Lake Oswego Saturday if weather permits.

Market for Beef In Japan Eyed

There is a considerable market for Oregon and western beef to be developed in Japan, but it is going to take considerable time and effort on the part of the western beef industry, Fred Phillips of Keating, declared on return from a two-week Oregon Trade Mission to the Far East.

First vice-president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Phillips told a press conference at the Portland office of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in the Imperial Hotel that he is moving immediately to seek organization of a new beef promotion group to work in Japan on the promotion of western beef.

Phillips said when the American National Cattlemen's Association meets in Honolulu in January, he will seek to set up the permanent organization, involving the support of a number of western states to join in financing the market promotion and development effort.

A member of the 32-man trade mission led by Governor Tom McCall which visited Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe, Japan; Seoul, Korea and Taipei, Taiwan during the last two weeks of November, Phillips said he found ample interest, particularly in Japan, for the importation of high quality western beef.

Leaders in the Japanese beef industry and in the Japanese government expect a substantial increase in the beef import quotas in 1969 and 1970. He also reported that representatives of the 15 trading companies currently licensed to import beef in Japan all expressed considerable interest in the prospects of importing U. S. prime and choice grade beef from Oregon and other western states.

Mrs. and Mr. John Bristow and family, from Greenville, Texas, returned on Monday to their home following a ten-day visit with relatives in the area, while staying at the home of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McCabe and family. Other guests at the McCabe home on Christmas Day were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Bristow, and her brother, Don Bristow, all of Lone, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bristow and family from Tillamook, and the McCabe's daughter, Pam, home from attending business school in Portland.



SHERIFF C. J. D. BAUMAN (center) was honored with presentations at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday just prior to his retirement from the sheriff's office on January 6. Mrs. Ed Hunt presented him with a portrait that she painted, and Wes Sherman, Chamber president, presented him with a plaque on behalf of the organization. (G-T Photo).

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wood and sons from Vanderhoof, Canada, were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Culp and family prior to the Christmas holidays. On Tuesday, December 24, the Culp family traveled to Redmond to spend time visiting her sister, before traveling to Albany to make a Christmas visit at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sorenson. Last Thursday the family visited at her mother's home in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Anderson, Kit and Ricky, formerly of Heppner and now residents of Dallas, have been spending Christmas week with friends and relatives in the area. They have been guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Anderson and family, and with the George Luciani and Charles Bloodsworth families. Anderson is a county agent on the staff of the Polk County Extension office.

Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson and two children from Albany were visitors during the Christmas holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Bloodsworth and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parsons and family arrived December 24, to spend Christmas Eve with Mr. and Mrs. Dean Connor and family at their home. On Christmas Day, they gathered with other family members for dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jensen. The Parsons family also visited for a short time on Christmas at the home of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. George Steagall before returning to their home in Beaverton.

My Neighbors



"What would you suggest for a husband who gave his wife a vacuum cleaner last Christmas...?"

Sheriff Bauman Honored Monday For Long Service

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called some humorous incidents of his own.

Among those who had planned to attend the meeting but were forced to cancel because of weather conditions were Sheriff Harry Marlowe of Lane county, president of the Oregon Sheriff's association; Sheriff Robert L. Gilmothe of Hood River county; Bert Lindsay, Paul Bottich and Karel Hyer, Salem, of the Bureau of Police Standards and Training; Sheriff Roy Johnson of Umatilla county, who called during the meeting to say that he is ill with the flu; and others.

Among local guests at the meeting who came to honor Sheriff Bauman were Sheriff-elect John Mollahan, Deputy Dean Gilman, and Heppner Chief of Police Glen Kolkhorst. Those from outside Morrow county said that they would either come at another appropriate time when weather is better or send their tokens of recognition to the sheriff.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Patients admitted to Pioneer Memorial hospital during the past week, and still receiving medical care, are the following: Dolna Martin, Fossil; William Springer, Pilot Rock; Rosalie Joe, Heppner; Edna Hutchens, Heppner; Floyd Hutchens, Heppner; Hugh Jones, Condon, and Evelyn Farrens, Heppner.

Those dismissed, after receiving medical care, were Henry Mariek, Ione; Delbert Emerit, Ione, and Desmond Robison, Spray.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hill and son, Clayton, of Coos Bay are enjoying their annual Christmas visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harris. Also here at the end of the week were the Hills' son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams of Coos Bay, and children, Joclyn and Andrea. The Hills will extend their visit past the New Year's holiday, while he is on vacation from his work with the state apprenticeship program.

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Ken Evans at their home in the Adams area Tuesday through Thursday of last week were Evans' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Evans and daughter, Chris, of Heppner. Traveling to the Evans home to enjoy Christmas Day were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hager, and her grandmother, Mrs. Emma Hager.

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