

Blacksburg



A. A. R. P.

NEWSLETTER

September 21, 1993

Volume 10, Number 7

John G. Palmer, Editor

Chapter 2613

TODAY and NEXT MONTH

Welcome back from a most unusual weather-wise summer: perhaps you visited the very hot and dry southeast or the very wet mid-west or the very cool and relatively wet northwest or etcetera. We saw shriveled tobacco and corn south of here and many square and rectangular lakes, not to forget wet basements, in the upper midwest. An air flight over the land of 100,000 (used to be 10,000) lakes was certainly impressive: fortunately our children's abodes were high enough to avoid flooding. In any case, the return to The New River Valley and B'burg made us more thankful than usual. We hope you feel similarly about your return or stay!

September 20

Hopefully you will receive your copy of this issue in time to learn about the campaign "Kick Off" reception in the Blacksburg Area Branch Library between 7:30 and 9:30 PM. Programs at 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM provide an introduction by Nancy Hurst, Chair of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board, followed by the presentation of drawings of the proposed new library by Richard Fitts, architect.

SEPTEMBER 21

I'll bet that our FIRST MEETING of the autumn season will be both quite informative and very relaxing as usual for all of us, even for Cartmel!

After renewing friendships, making new acquaintances, and eating lunch, we shall learn just how seniors can help some of their young neighbors in our towns and county. The Montgomery County Social Services agency provides help to many needy neighbors and, in turn, need our help to help. JOAN ROWE, or an appointed assistant, will tell us "HOW SENIORS CAN HELP CHILDREN IN STRESS" in our communities. We ought to know what some volunteers contribute and how AARP members might help!

September 23

Would you believe that autumn begins this day?

September 25

Some of our members observe their holy Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Perhaps all persons have reason to think about future aspirations and actions following the recent events affecting the Middle East!

TODAY and NEXT MONTH**(CONTINUED)**

September 26

Do you know the reasons for "Gold Star Mothers' Day?"

September 28

On this AARP Day at the Virginia State Fair, members of our Legislative Committee will help to set up an AARP "Telephone Tree" in our district. This tree will be a network of members who will call others to relay messages; obtain members' opinions; and take action on decisions made. The subject will often be health. Telephone "Torchy" Walrath (552-3544) to help tackle such toughies!!

October 11/12

The currently observed and the traditional Columbus Day.

October 11 (week of)

Your support for the American Heart Association's Heart Fest will be needed and appreciation at local grocery stores.

October 19

This general meeting will be relocated to "Custom Catering" just off north Main Street and Patrick Henry Drive! Plan to arrive around 11:30 AM for socializing. The catered lunch at 12 Noon will consist of vegetable-beef soup; a variety of crackers; assorted sandwiches including chicken salad, ham on rye, pimento cheese (named after the West Indian allspice tree [?]) on whole wheat; tossed salad with a variety of dressings, and desserts of lemon pie and fruit cup. If you were fortunate enough to attend last year, you'll want to attend this year's October-Fest!!

The cost will be \$5.00 (that's five greeners) per meal. Reservation and payment need to be made by October 12 (in 1993, of course!) and should be given to the gracious chair, Carl Witherspoon at the September 21 meeting or mailed to him at 909 Mason Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

YO' CHAPTER IS REAL ACTIVE HERE !!

The following paragraph is a reprint from the June newsletter: it's even more important now with national and state legislatures "in session" now or soon. Our Chairs, "Torchy" Walrath of Legislative Committee and Ken Martin of the Health Care Committee, emphasize that interests and pocketbooks of seniors and all other citizens of the US will be affected during the upcoming legislative years. I'm sure also that you have heard and will hear about many of the following issues on TV and radio and have and will read about them in newspapers, magazines, and circulars. Both public and private groups with vested interests prepare advertisements to

TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE*and read On MacDuff, & Wilda, & Herb, & Esther, & Bill, & Etcetera!*

YO' CHAPTER IS REAL ACTIVE HERE !! (CONTINUED)

describe or support their position. AARP describes such issues receiving legislative attention in the "AARP BULLETIN" and describes its position.

You really ought to read about and try to understand them.

Information is sometimes incomplete, and fact difficult to ascertain. Do follow the news and remember that a typed or hand-written letter has greater impact on (influence with) national and state legislators than does a telephone call unless there is a massive outpouring of the latter.

"It summer vacation and visit time, and we'll enjoy it. But there are many political and social changes that may transpire before our next meeting. Therefore it behooves us to pay attention to news and think about possible effects of each legislative or administrative consideration upon our country, our community, and us! Future increases/decreases or maintenance of the "status quo" with regard to pensions, interest on savings, value of stocks/bonds as well as costs for health care, coverage for all citizens, home/housing purchase and maintenance, air/auto/sea transportation should interest all Americans. Stay in touch with your interests through as many news media(s) as you can including "Retirement Life" and other magazines and publications primarily for seniors. Sometimes it's hard to tell if each is talking about the same news release, proposal, or public response.

For example, one item of interest to some is a proposal in Congress to reduce federal pension survivor annuities by 10% for retirees who die after September 30, 1993, ---- and medicare/medicaid will interest all!!"

My goodness. Not only do we have upcoming state and local elections coming up in November, but our Nominating Committee composed of Mildred Beecher, Denver Bragg, Esther Martin, Mary Tom Long, and Wilda Sibert soon must begin deliberations and selections for 1994 chapter officers.

The Board of Directors has approved a resolution to support development of the Huckleberry Trail from Blacksburg to Christiansburg. The abandoned railroad track-line will provide recreation for walkers and bicycle riders. El Presidente Blanton has forwarded the epistle to the Montgomery County administrator.

Jim Roberts, with his most pleading look, asks that additional items be brought to the September, October, and November meetings and placed upon the Ways & Means sale table for perusal and purchase. The table will be located in the hall outside the meeting room. Jim looked a little more cheerful when announced that \$112.80 was gleaned in the picnic auction.

The AARP Andrus Foundation has acknowledged our chapter contribution of \$125.00

Our Board of Directors voted to purchase nine copies of Al Payne's Community Prayer Book, which could be given to speakers after it is published. The book will contain prayers made at many noteworthy happenings and community meetings, especially in and around Montgomery County. Some were presented at our chapter meetings. According to Barbara Michelsen, Executive Director at the Virginia Tech YMCA, profits will go to the YMCA for support of local programs and persons, especially students.

Still
CONTINUED

YO' CHAPTER IS REAL ACTIVE HERE !!

Jim (the Shorter) Moore presented our "ad hoc" Committee's report on the need for a senior center in Blacksburg and has sent a summary to Blacksburg Town Manager Sechrist. The Committee members spent a lot of time and visited a fairly large number of operating centers, e.g. Radford, Christiansburg, Charlottesville, Pearisburg, Harrisonburg, Pulaski, Waynesboro, and Manassas. They noted wide variation in numbers of programs, use by seniors, and quality of facilities from place to place. They thought that many of the observed services, e.g. meals, swimming pools, transportation, information about important services, etc., are available in Blacksburg. However, the town's Parks and Recreation Department might establish a volunteer advisory committee with members representing senior groups to assemble, evaluate, make recommendations, and dispense information. The committee feels that as of now a new special facility cannot not be justified.

Lenna Moore, worthy grand manager of our treasury, reports that \$92.00 has been paid for chapter liability insurance covering the period from August 1, 1993 through July 31, 1994 and an unobligated balance of \$1,718.32 on August 31.

HEAR HERE, NOW! or maybe HERE HEAR, NOW!!

Along innterstate highways, environmental disfigurementments have been of much concern. Recently in one of the local newspapers an article supported allowance of commercial roadside signs noting where services are located. Such information should be quite a distance before the exit where it will be needed; we've needed readable advance warning on occasional trips: perhaps you have also. The example of an acceptable one was a Burma Shave sign whose liturgy was used in the March or April newsletter. So here go more of my favorites:

Passing cars when you can't see
may get you a glimpse of eternity.

Around the curve likkety split.
It's a beautiful car, wasn't it?

Lenna Moore
AARP Chapter #2613
1607 Greenwood Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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Blacksburg
AARP CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, September 21, 1993
Tuesday, November 17, 1992
at Custom Catering off North Main
11:30 AM = Lunch & Conversation
12 Noon = Program

