

Social Security Is A Big Business For Sam Test

By W. W. EDGAR

Like most undergraduates in the nation's institutions of higher learning, Sam Test had set some lofty goals for himself and spent many hours dreaming of the success he would have when he turned his books aside to begin the battle of the business world.

But on that June day in 1940 when he received his sheepskin and graduated from Ohio State University, little did he think, in his wildest imagination, that the day would come when he'd be supervising a "payroll" of more than \$5 million a month.

Yet, that's exactly what happened. As the manager of the northwest Detroit office of the Social Security Administration, he reports that his "payroll" is getting larger every day.

"OUR AREA has been growing at the rate of about 5,000 beneficiaries a year," he said the other afternoon while checking his records. "As an example, we had 73,000 on our rolls in 1968, and that total jumped to 75,416 in 1969. And from the books of things we'll go way up again in 1970."

The area covered by the

Town	Beneficiaries	Regular Benefits	Disability
Redford	7,799	\$433,000	\$42,000
Livonia	7,254	\$380,000	\$40,000
Plymouth	3,075	\$179,000	\$19,000
Northville	1,908	\$100,000	\$15,000

northwest office includes a large section of northwest Detroit, along with Redford Township, Livonia, Plymouth, and Northville and extends as far south as Joy Road.

"The total outlay of benefits from this office," he explained, "reaches \$5,005,000 a month. Of this sum there are 19,828 beneficiaries collecting \$1,238,000 monthly in what you call Observance."

He then broke the payments down in this fashion:

"There are 7,799 persons getting \$475,000 each month in Detroit. Of this amount, \$433,000 is for regular social security benefits and \$42,000 in total disability payments."

"In Livonia we have 7,254 persons getting \$420,000 monthly, and \$40,000 of this is for total disability."

"Plymouth ranks third on our suburban list with 3,075 persons getting \$198,000

monthly with \$19,000 of it going for total disability and in Northville 1,700 persons are collecting \$115,000 of which \$15,000 is for total disability."

they all qualified because of a change in the law that was made possible through the work of U.S. Rep. Martha W. Griffiths.

"Until she engineered the change in the law, a mother had to work so many quarters within a short period of three or four years before her death," Sam explained. "Then the law was changed to take the limitation off, and a mother was given the same rights as a man. It was under this change that the 13 children qualified."

Another case he delights recalling concerns Dr. Karl Van Newkirk in Plymouth who qualified only a short time ago for total disability benefits under a change in the law.

"When people find out the real working of Social Security, they come to realize what a great thing it is, not only for the aged, but for the totally disabled, and even for children," he said and then told of a case where the children's benefits are banked each month to apply toward a college education.

AS HE SPOKE the phone rang and he was asked to rule on a question of a dying man, in a coma, and what could be done about his monthly check.

"If the man survives until his check arrives, all he has to do is hold the pen, and make a mark, before two witnesses. That will make it official."

He later pointed out if a check arrives after a beneficiary passes away, it cannot be cashed.

"This is the kind of service we provide all day, five days a week," he said, "and we now have added something new."

"To save the people the trouble of traveling out here and having trouble parking, we are providing telephone service. You can file claims or say other type of business by phone, and it will be a great

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saving in time and energy. The telephone number is 537-9210, extension 230, and there is some one here at all times."

With a staff of 60 persons, the northwest office is equipped to handle the continuous traffic in and out of the office. And along with this staff, two of the latest pieces of equipment have been added.

There is a teletype connected directly with Social Security headquarters in Baltimore and information regarding qualifications, payments and all types of business can be handled in a matter of minutes.

There also is what is called a Micro-fiche. With this machine, the complete history of each beneficiary is made available in the time it takes to take a film out of a rack and show it on the screen.

"We're moving right along," Test continued, "and with the way our rolls are increasing we're going to need all the help — human or mechanical — we can get."

ALONG WITH this service, the northwest Detroit office also serves as a training center to school both men and women in the rules and regulations and fit them for work as field representatives.

And Test was like a proud father when he stated, "We graduated our first class — 13 — just last week."

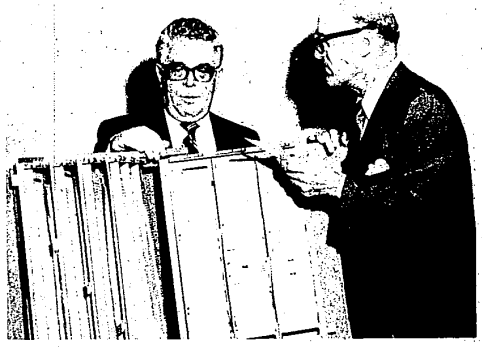
Prior to coming to Detroit, Test had a varied career in the Social Security Administration.

After graduating he started at headquarters in Baltimore, then moved to Akron as a field representative. From there he went to Warren, Ohio, and Canton, Ohio, before coming to Detroit where he worked in the main office until 1955 where he was named manager of the northwest branch.

He's come a long way since that June day when he received his diploma at Ohio State with little thought that some day he'd be administering a "payroll" that surpasses \$50 million a year.



RIGHT FROM HEADQUARTERS—With the latest teletype machines, the northwest Social Security office now keeps in constant touch with the main office computer in Baltimore. Earnings and benefits can be checked in a matter of minutes. Miss Carolyn Brenneman is shown here feeding the computer miles and miles away. (Evert photo)



HERE'S THE LATEST—Sam Test (right), director of the Northwest Branch of the Social Security office and his assistant, Marron Colvin, of Plymouth, are looking over a "micro-fiche"—the latest thing in record keeping. Six hundred accounts are filmed on each segment and individual records can be checked in a matter of seconds. (Evert photo)



SAM TEST, director of the Northwest Branch of the Social Security office, looks over the lists for the next payments to the beneficiaries. The list has grown from 70,000 in 1968 to 75,000 in 1969.

JA Opens New Business Season

The Junior Achievement program for 1970-71 opens in the southeastern Michigan area the week of Oct. 12. Twenty-eight business centers will be the hub of activity for almost 400 JA miniature corporations.

JA this year offers nearly 10,000 area high school students an opportunity to learn about business, and have an exciting time and gain valuable experience.

Larry Furrow of 27928 Buckingham, Livonia, is starting his fourth year as center manager of the Plymouth Business Center, located at 585 West Ann Arbor Trail. He attended Lincoln Park High School and graduated from the University of Detroit. Furrow served with combat intelligence during World War II.

This year Junior Achievement is shooting for the high-

est goal of students in its history. Approximately 1,000 advisors from business and industry will be guiding the students in their JA companies.

The teens will manage their own small-scale businesses. They will select a board of directors, work force and sales personnel. After this is accomplished they will develop a product or service to render.

They pay themselves wages and maintain company books.

JA is not only business. It is a place to have fun too. Throughout the year different business centers sponsor dances, picnics, hayrides and various other activities. This year 250 Junior Achievement members will jet to Rome and Florence for their spring vacation.



SHARING JOKE — Mrs. Mary Dumas of Livonia, Republican U.S. Senate candidate Mrs. Lenore Romney and Ernest Doty of Redford find something to laugh about as they prepare to boost Mrs. Romney's campaign with a Rome Hall appearance.

Republicans To Hear Lenore

Mrs. Lenore Romney, candidate for U.S. senator, will be presented by Livonia and Redford Township Republicans at a dinner in Roma Hall, Livonia, Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 8 p.m.

and Ernest F. Doty of Redford Township.

A social hour beginning at 7 p.m. and entertainment by a Dearborn chorus of teenagers are planned additional attractions.

Calling themselves the "Concerned Citizens for America," sponsoring committee members are: Doty, Mrs. Dumas and Livonians James F. O'Neill, State Board of Education treasurer;

Gloria Reeves and Marilyn Bird; and from Redford Township, Rhys and Ruth Lewis, Robert Reisdorf, Jay and Betty Hughes, Doris Weber, Marion Donaldson and Jorna Cole.

Expected to take part in the program are David Leathley, Wayne 19th party chairman; Rev. William Wager of Aldersgate Methodist Church of Redford Township; and Redford Union government teacher Kenneth Smith.

Children's Play Opens

A new children's play by Kenneth Chornot opens Saturday, Oct. 10, in Westminster Fellowship Hall, Hubbel at West Outer Drive, Detroit. It will run Oct. 17, 24 and 31, with performances set for 1 and 3:30 p.m.

The new play is titled "Elijah, the Outlaw." Admission is \$1 for adults, 75 cents for children. Group rates and reservations may be obtained by calling Chornot at 272-2419.

Singles' Club Plans Dance

The first social event of the new "Singles 25 and Up Club" will be a dance in the new facilities of the Family V of Livonia, 14255 Stark, Saturday evening, Oct. 10.

The club, sponsored by the Y, is being organized by Don Russell, who will host the dance. Dancing lessons will be given from 8 to 9, with dancing from 9 to 1. Refreshments will be served.

All singles, 25 and up, are welcome. Admission for non-members is \$2.

J.C. Heard Is Lofy's Star

The "drummer's drummer," J. C. Heard, has opened this week for an extended stay at Lofy's, Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. Heard was the drummer's title when playing with Count Basie's band.



Guess who I woke up with this morning?

Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. At exactly 7:15 A.M. Which is when my clock-radio goes off every morning. Good, honest music... it's such a delightfully refreshing way to wake up every morning.

Instead of a D. J. pummeling away at you. Tomorrow I'm hoping for Tom Jones. I bet he's great in the morning too!

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Fewer commercials and very sexy music