



By DICK MILLER

Highland School Librarian

(Last week, this writer discussed the publication of Zenith Books by Doubleday and Co. Diane Lewis, in charge of publicity for Books for Young Readers, the children's department of Doubleday, has just forwarded additional information on this subject that should be of great interest to the citizens--and particularly the educators--of Clark County. It follows.)

STUDENTS IN JUNIOR and senior high schools throughout the country are being introduced to a new subject--one which represents a long-neglected aspect of American life. They will be reading, many for the first time, books about the history of the Negro and the significant contributions he has made to the growth and development of this country.

Zenith Books, a series presenting the origins of American minority groups, launched by Doubleday with the publication of two books last January and continuing with four more this Fall, have been officially adopted for classroom use in Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

This is the first series on the history of American minority groups to be adopted as supplementary textbooks for regular social studies and reading classes.

IN CALIFORNIA, Gov. Edmund G. Brown signed a bill in July requiring textbooks used in California schools to portray correctly the role of Negroes and other minority groups in the history of the state and nation. It is expected that Zenith Books, which are especially designed for use in secondary school social studies and English courses, will be recognized by most major metropolitan school boards as filling the need for historical information which up to now has been virtually inaccessible.

Zenith Books are prepared by professional writers in close collaboration with recognized scholars. They aim to advance the understanding of our American past by presenting vivid, well-documented accounts of minority groups. The series has been created to help the pupil who is a member of a minority group to develop a positive self-image, while encouraging other pupils to respect and appreciate the heritage of all Americans. It is hoped that Zenith Books will reach potential dropouts and encourage some of them to continue their education.

Doubleday publishes Zenith Books simultaneously in paperback and hardcover editions and provides a teachers' manual for each book. Zenith Books have 128 pages and are generously illustrated with original art work, photographs and maps.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, distinguished historian, author and Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and Shelley Umans, a specialist in reading instruction and staff member of Teachers College, Columbia University, serve as general editors of the series.

The first two Zenith Books were A GLORIOUS AGE in AFRICA and WORTH FIGHTING FOR, the latter a history of the Negro in the United States during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Three more titles were published in September. They are:

GREAT RULERS of the AFRICAN PAST, by Lavinia Dobler and William A. Brown. (Five men whose leadership shaped the growth of African trade, culture and political organization in the years 1312 to 1617.)

LIFT EVERY VOICE, by Dorothy Sterling and Benjamin Quarles. The lives of (Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary Church Terrell and James Weldon Johnson.)

(The above books were discussed in last week's column.)

PIONEERS and PATRIOTS, by Lavinia Dobler and Edgar A. Toppin. (The lives of six Negroes of the Revolutionary Era; Benjamin Banneker, Paul Cuffe, Phillis Wheatley, Peter Salem, Jean Baptiste Point de Sable and John Chavis.)

Published on October 8 was:

A GUIDE to AFRICAN HISTORY, by Basil Davidson; Revised and Edited by Haskel Frankel. (A survey of African history beginning with theories about the origins of mankind to now.)

Social Security Changes Benefit Elderly

ONE OF THE RECENT changes in the Social Security Law concerns benefits available to people aged 72 and over who now need not to have worked as long to receive benefits as they did under the previous law. Although some social security credit is still required, less work is required than before. Men who are 76 years old or older, and women who are 73 years old or older, may now get monthly social security benefits if they worked under social security for only three quarters of a year. No payments can be made under this provision until the worker, his wife, or his widow are at least 72.

The highest amount that can be paid under this change is \$35 a month to a worker or his widow and \$17.50 to his wife. If a man was born before 1890, he need have only three quarters of work under Social Security to qualify for this \$35 a month benefit. If he was born in the year 1890, he needs only four quarters of work under social security; and if the year of birth was 1891, he need have worked only five quarters in order to qualify.

On the other hand, a woman worker, who was born before 1893 need have worked only three quarters; and if she was born in the year 1893, need have worked only one full year under social security. If her birth date was 1894, she need have only five quarters under social security. These quarters are for either the male or female worker, and can be earned at any time after 1936. These workers qualify for \$35 per month and the wife of such a worker would qualify for \$17.50 per month. If the worker continues to work, he might qualify for higher monthly benefits.

Widows of certain workers may also qualify for benefits under this provision. However, certain requirements must be met. If the worker was 65 or died before 1957, and his widow could not qualify at that time, she may now get widow's benefits if she is 72 before 1969.

The length of time the worker needed to have worked depends upon two things: his date of birth and her age. If the worker was 65, or died in 1954 or earlier, he need have only three quarters of work under social security if his widow is now 72 or will reach the age 72 in 1966. In this same example, if the widow does not reach her 72nd birthday until 1967, the de-

ceased would have had to have four quarters of work under social security.

If you have filed a claim for old age benefits, or benefits as a widow, and were told you or your late husband did not have enough work under social security to qualify, you should inquire again at the Social Security Office, 601 S. 13th Street, Las Vegas.

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