

## Deadline Set For Medicare Doctor Bill Ins.

People 65 and over who have not yet enrolled in the voluntary doctor bill insurance part of Medicare have only about two weeks left in which to sign up.

Charles T. McCoy, social security district manager, said that although most older people in Lancaster are already enrolled in the program that supplements their basic hospital insurance under Medicare, some still need to take action by March 31 in order to get the protection.

For anyone born October 1, 1901, or earlier, he pointed out, this will be the last chance to get the protection. Others now 66 to 67 years of age, who have not signed up by the end of this open enrollment period, will have to wait until next January for another opportunity.

Several weeks ago, Mr. McCoy said, most of the elderly people not yet enrolled for the doctor bill insurance — those for whom the Social Security Administration had addresses — received reminder letters from the Commissioner of Social Security along with cards for them to send back, marked "yes" or "no."

Those not signed up for the

protection who did not get such a letter and card are urged to get in touch with the social security office. Mr. McCoy said. Relatives and friends of elderly people can help by reminding them of the upcoming deadline on March 31 and suggesting that they visit or call the social security office right away.

Just about everyone 65 and over is eligible for the voluntary doctor bill insurance. McCoy pointed out, whether or not they have ever worked under social security and whether retired or still working.

During 1968, with 95 percent of the elderly enrolled, the doctor bill insurance paid 33 mil-


lion bills for physicians' sur-geons' and other medical expenses totaling \$1.5 billion.

The \$4 monthly premium paid by people enrolled in the doctor bill insurance part of Medicare represents half the cost of the protection. Mr. McCoy said. The Government pays the other half.

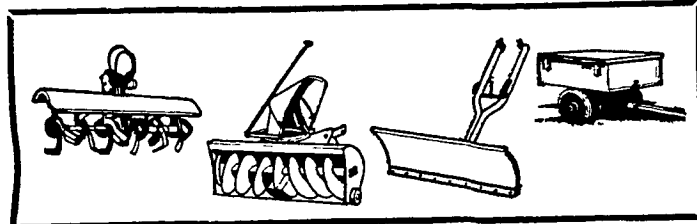
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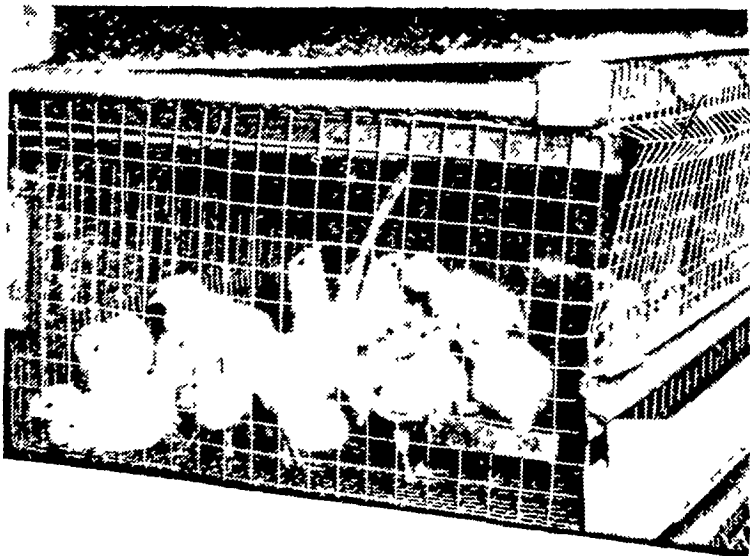
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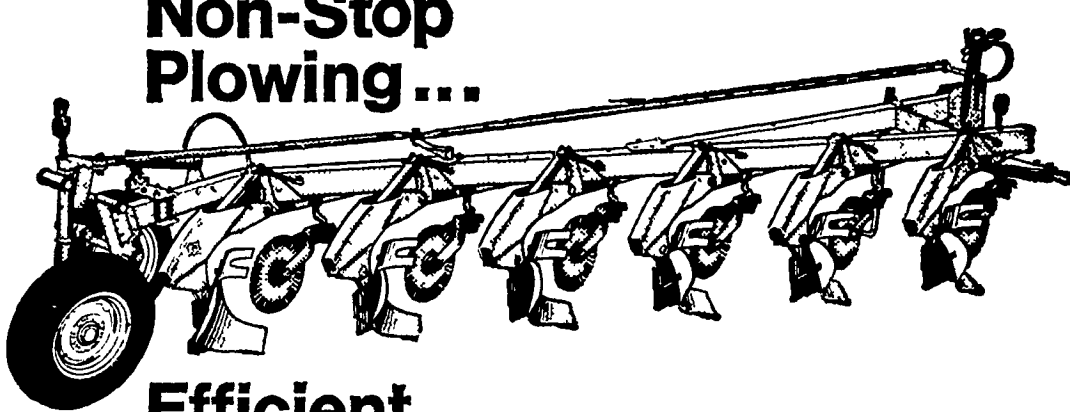
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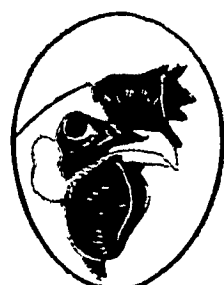
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