

Mount Joy Homemaker Services expands program of family aid

Mount Joy area Homemaker Services, affiliated with the Visiting Nurse Association, will expand its programs to include persons under 60 years of age beginning July 1, according to Robert C. Aims, project director of VNA's county-wide Homemaker Program.

Since VNA initiated its Expanded Homemaker Program in 1975, the service has been offered to persons over 60 through a contract with the County Office of Aging.

The Visiting Nurse Association is a United Way agency.

According to Aims, the program will offer three major advantages to the younger age group:

—It will permit the incapacitated family member to remain at home, out of an institution.

—It will provide families some relief from continuing care of the chronically ill or disabled family member.

—It will permit working family members the freedom to continue working as they are relieved of added housekeeping or care responsibilities at home.

The new part-time care will offer the same light housekeeping and personal care services that it always has offered to those over 60. A typical homemaker visit of several hours a day, a few days a week may include meal preparation, feeding, bathing, grocery shopping, vacuuming, or assisting a patient with medication.

Homemakers will also care for children in the patient's home on a part-time basis while the patient is bed-bound or incapacitated.

Although homemaker service is free to those over 60 as a result of the Office of Aging contract, Aims said, service to those under 60 will be offered on a

sliding fee scale. Aims explained that the fee of service will be determined by the extent of voluntary community support for the program and a family's income level.

However, he added that no one will be refused service because of their inability to pay. Since the Visiting Nurse Association is a United Way agency, the Association can cover the cost of Homemaker visits if the family cannot.

VNA's Solanco and Lancaster City homemaker offices also will offer service to persons under the age of 60 beginning July 1.

An individual living in the northern, western, or eastern section of the county may apply for homemaker service by contacting the nearest of these offices:

Ephrata Office, 123 East Main Street, 733-0345.

Mount Joy Office, 37 East Main Street, 653-8585.

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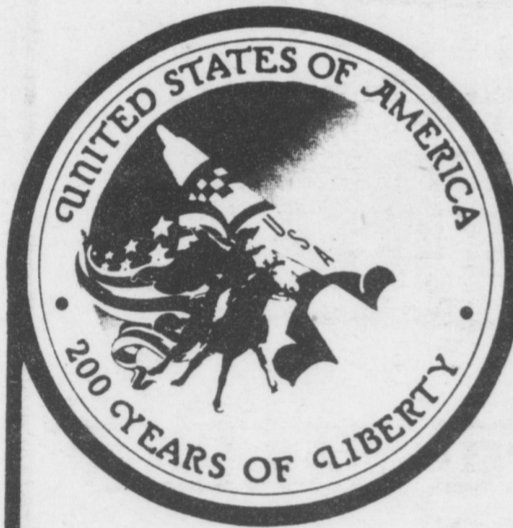
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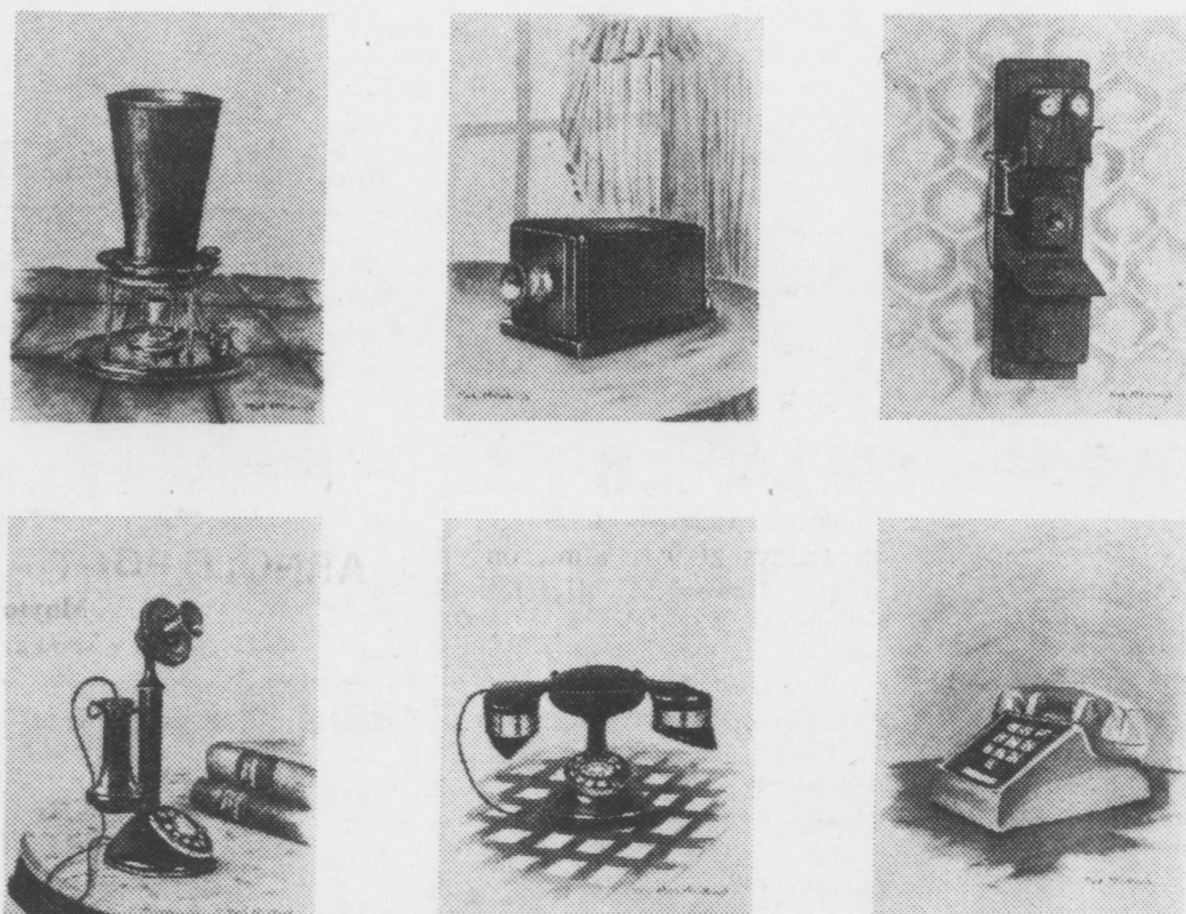
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