

# Many Elderly Americans Pay Too Much Income Tax

By LOUISE COOK  
Associated Press Writer

Millions of elderly Americans pay more federal income tax than the law requires, and older people preparing their returns may need special help to cope with the Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations.

Overpayments often stem from a lack of understanding. Many men and women over 65 file returns when they don't need to; others fail to take credits they are entitled to.

The "Tax Aide" program run jointly

by the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association is designed to clear up some of the confusion.

"Tax Aide" is a free counseling service available at more than 3,000 locations throughout the country. The advice is provided by 8,500 retirees, trained by the Internal Revenue Service in the areas of tax law which apply to people over 65.

Most of the "Tax Aide" counseling is done at places like senior citizen centers, libraries, shopping malls and

churches; a few of the volunteers even make house calls.

For the location of the center nearest you, write to: Tax-Aide Program, Dept. NK, NRTAARP, 1909 K St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20049.

According to the retirement groups, authorities calculate that at least half of the nine million people over 65 who file federal income tax returns in a typical year pay more than they are required to.

Where do people go wrong?  
The first chance to slip up comes

when you decide whether to file a return. With a few exceptions, you are NOT required to file a federal income tax return if:

—You are single, over 65 and had a taxable income, beyond Social Security and other exempt benefits, of less than \$3,700.

—You are married, filing a joint return, either you or your spouse is over 65 and, together, you had a taxable income of under \$5,450.

—You are married, filing a joint return, both you and your spouse are

over 65 and your joint taxable income is less than \$5,700.

You may want to file a return even if you don't have to. If, for example, you are entitled to a refund for tax withheld from salary or pension benefits, you will have to file a return to get your money.

Tax credits are another potential source of confusion. Every taxpayer is entitled to a General Tax Credit for each person claimed as an exemption on his or her return. If you are over 65, you get an extra exemption for age and

under tax law changes which took effect on 1977 returns, an extra credit.

There is also a Special Credit for the Elderly which offers savings of up to \$562.50 in some cases. You must file a separate form, Schedule R, and your income cannot exceed fixed limits. Ask the IRS or a private counselor.

A special tax guide for older people is available at no charge from the retirement associations. It's called "Your Retirement Income Tax Guide." To get a copy, write to NRTAARP, P.O. Box 2400, Long Beach, Calif., 90801.

## CASA GRANDE DISPATCH

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### Possible Link Probed In 7 Valley Shootings

COOLIDGE — Police here this morning didn't have any solid leads to help in finding the gunman or gunmen who killed two waitresses and wounded a third within 12 minutes of each other Friday night.

There is speculation that the Coolidge shootings were connected to the shooting of four Casa Grande girls in two December incidents, said Coolidge Director of Public Safety John A. Richardson. "But there is no certainty of that," he said.

LA. Phil Bain of the Casa Grande Police Department said this morning that there is a good indication the Coolidge shootings are related to the December shootings in Casa Grande.

In the first Coolidge shooting, a possibly black man knocked at a window at El Taco, and fired a pistol when high school student Cindy Green, 17, turned to wait on him Friday night.

"I've been shot," Miss Green told a co-worker as she clutched her bleeding chest. She fell to the floor and died a short while later. Ms. Green was transported by ambulance to Pinal General Hospital in Florence, where she was pronounced dead.

While Coolidge police were investigating the shooting at El Taco, a man described by



COOLIDGE POLICE have been provided with two different descriptions of possible assailants. Left, a heavy-set Mexican male weighing between 190-230 pounds, 5 feet 11 inches tall, black wavy hair. Right drawing is a light-complexioned black male, 6 feet 6 inches tall with 2-inch "afro" hairstyle.

witnesses as Mexican entered the Dairy Queen 10 blocks from the El Taco, pulled a revolver and fatally wounded Peggy Worsham, 20.

Mrs. Worsham was transported to Hoemako Hospital in Casa Grande where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Cheryl Stinson, 19, also a Dairy Queen waitress, was shot in the head and was transported to Phoenix. She was still listed in serious condition in Barrow's Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital this morning.

Ms. Stinson has been placed under guard in her Phoenix hospital room after an intruder was spotted by a nurse, police said. When a nurse confronted the man near her room, he fled without saying anything, officers said. "We have to presume that was why he was there, to do away with the only survivor," said Richardson.

Investigators from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Pinal County Sheriff's Department and Coolidge have set up a special headquarters to investigate the

shootings.

"We do have some portions of bullets that have been of value to us. They're not the same as in Casa Grande, but that doesn't mean there still is not some connection," Coolidge police Lt. Robert Bonney said.

The Friday night shootings have caused Coolidge police to assign extra officers to patrol as detectives worked around the clock on the killings, Bonney said.

The police are in the process of trying to develop more witnesses and more information. Bonney said the weapon was 22-caliber.

"Right now, things still are unclear to us," Bonney said.

There has been some public speculation that the December shootings involving four Casa Grande girls and the Friday shootings in Coolidge are related to youth gang activity.

While Bonney has not ruled out the possibility that the shootings are gang related, he said, "I have no real reason to suspect that this is actually the case."

Bonney said he is keeping See Shootings, page 3



Stilts Are Just Part of the Job

"WELL, IT beats walking up and down a ladder," said Carleton Mickens, employee of Associated Finishers, Scottsdale, about the stilts he uses. "You get used to being up here, he said. I walk out to the street and get

supplies out of the truck — boy, that draws a lot of looks," he said. "The only thing wrong is when you fall, there is nothing you can do but get up," he added. Mickens was working on a dry wall job in Casa Grande on Judi Street. (Staff Photo by Rod Mikhinski)

### Carter Says U.S. 'Ready to Work' With New Government in Iran

#### ★ Marines Ready For Evacuation If Necessary

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Marines and helicopters have been sent to a staging base near Iran, but officials say they are optimistic the calming words of Iran's dominant religious leader will make it unnecessary to rush help to Americans in Tehran.

Defense officials stressed Sunday that "we are simply preparing for contingencies" in sending a reinforced platoon of 69 Marines from the United States and six Air Force "jolly green giant" helicopters from Europe to a staging base in Turkey.

"These moves are strictly on a precautionary basis," defense spokesman Thomas Lambert said in confirming reports that a Marine detachment and helicopters would be ordered to positions near Iran in case the "leathernecks" are needed to help protect the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the helicopters to evacuate Americans.

"We have no plans at this time to deploy either the helicopters or the Marines to Iran," Lambert said.

By Sunday night, defense officials were saying they were heartened by a statement by Iranian religious chief Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini urging his supporters not to "make mischief and make misery" or harm foreigners.

Nonetheless, the decision to commit the Marines, even in

such a relatively small force, and to send the helicopters was an indication of growing U.S. concern about the status of the United States under new political arrangements shaping up in Iran.

Also, the military moves carried a more urgent tone than others by Washington during the Iranian crisis concerning the well-being of an estimated 7,000 Americans remaining in Iran, most of them defense contractors' employees and their families.

State Department spokesman Kenneth Brown said Sunday the embassy is warning Americans to stay off Tehran's streets, but he also said of U.S. citizens still in Iran, "To the best of our knowledge they are safe."

The State Department said about 250 Americans left Tehran Saturday on military flights and possibly others on commercial flights. Tehran's airport was shut down Sunday so there were no further flights, and none was expected today, an official said.

President Carter called Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Camp David, Md., where they conferred Sunday amid reports that Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar had resigned. Neither Carter nor Vance would comment on the Iranian situation when they arrived back at the White House by helicopter Sunday night.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter today said he has been in touch with the new rulers of Iran and "we stand ready to work with them."

Carter said the administration has been in contact with designated Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and that the new Iranian government was "very helpful in insuring the safety of Americans."

The president told a nationally broadcast news conference that "I see continued hope for very productive and peaceful cooperation with the new government of Iran."

Meeting reporters hours after followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took control of the government of Iran, Carter said "our objective has been and is a stable and independent Iran which maintains good relations with America."

As for the effect of the takeover on U.S. oil supplies, Carter said the situation "is not a crisis, but it certainly could get worse."

If Iranian production, which once accounted for 900,000 barrels a day of U.S. oil imports, is not resumed shortly, he said, the situation "would require additional measures."

The administration is considering such conservation measures as forcing gasoline stations to close on Sunday and regulating heating and cooling levels in public and commercial buildings.

Carter said events in Iran have made it more important that Americans comply with voluntary conservation measures designed to save oil.

The president said "there is no immediate danger" to the United States from the current loss of 500,000 barrels of Iranian oil daily, but that world oil stocks are steadily being reduced. He supported Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's appeal for voluntary energy conservation.

Carter said public cooperation "early and on a broad-scale basis" could insure that interruption of oil supplies be-

cause of the Iranian cutoff would be brief.

"The situation is not crucial now, it's not a crisis, but it certainly could get worse," Carter said.

The president said there must be instilled in the American consciousness that the United States can absorb these shortages if it shifts from oil to other energy sources and "if we restrain our wastefulness as much as possible."

On inflation, the president said the heavy, 1.3 percent increase in wholesale prices in January supported his prediction last fall that "inflation might get worse in the short run before it got better."

He urged Congress to approve administration legislation that would contain hospital costs and provide "wage insurance" for workers who observe his 7 percent guideline on pay increases.

For his part, Carter said, he will continue to work to reduce the federal budget deficit.

### Five Points Intersection To Be Rebuilt This Year

Reconstruction of the intersection of state routes 84, 93 and 287 in Casa Grande to make it safer, more convenient and more esthetic for the community will be accomplished this year.

The construction will begin by September, the Arizona Department of Transportation has told city officials.

ADOT held a public hearing last week at City Hall. With a projected increase in traffic, due in part to the Thornton Industrial Park at Thornton Road and Gila Bend

Highway, which is expected to employ from 1,000 to 1,500 people, it is necessary to ease the congestion and confusion at the intersection, said Dennis Strobusch, Casa Grande planning director.

"It will add to the image of the community," Strobusch said.

No businesses are expected to be displaced but three corners, the northeast and northwest corner of Pinal Avenue and the southeast corner of Florence Boulevard and Second Street will be cut into

for a larger right-of-way. There will be a physical barrier at the start of the intersection and extending back approximately half a block on some or all streets to prevent left turns before the intersection.

Interested persons may send comments or suggestions to John Kulniovich, district two engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation, Box 27306, Tucson, 85726. These should be in no later than Feb. 21, 1979.



U.S. Border Policies Protested

MORE THAN 1,300 people march at San Ysidro, a community of San Diego, protesting U.S. plans to build steel fences

along the Mexican border. Those in the Sunday march also protested Carter immigration policies. (AP Laserphoto)