

# Welfare Payments Down In County \$153,386 Last Half Year

By Ron Miller

Delighted county officials are bragging about a whopping \$153,386 decrease in welfare payments for the last six months as compared to the same period last year.

A record for Santa Cruz county, the decrease comes in the face of a statewide upward trend in the number of welfare payments, according to Social Welfare Director Ray Ansell.

Total county welfare payments from June through November amounted to \$2,095,224 as compared to \$2,248,611 for the same six-month period last year.

Ansell claims the cause is partly due to the increasing number of social security recipients who would otherwise be receiving Old Age Security (OAS) benefits, paid partly by the county.

But Ansell reports heavy decreases in the partly county-supported Aid To Needy Children (ANC) and wholly county-supported General Assistance (GA) programs are due to a sweeping reorganization within the county welfare department.

Where social caseworkers formerly handled cases in several different assistance programs, they now handle specialized cases in individual categories. In other words, workers handling ANC cases do not handle GA and OAS cases, too.

The resulting efficiency allows the caseworkers to get out in the field more often and do more than simply dole out funds. They are making more job referrals and are turning over more lawbreakers to the district attorney's office for prosecution.

Ansell claims the reorganization has been complimented by speedier follow-through on the part of the department of employment, the county probation department and the district attorney's office.

The average caseload for each OAS social worker falls between 200 and 225 cases. Each recipient is contacted a minimum of every 90 days. ANC caseload average is around 55-60 cases per worker with contacts coming at least every 60 days and generally once a month.

The resulting savings have been outstanding. In November,

## Gene Tierney's Comeback Story In Family Weekly

At 41, actress Gene Tierney is a woman who no longer fears the future. With her years of mental illness behind her and her recent marriage to Texas millionaire W. Howard Lee, Gene has found new confidence in herself and a new career in the movies.

How she fought to regain her health and the happiness she now knows is dramatically

1313 children and adults were receiving ANC aid, the lowest figure in three years. In September, \$53,498 in ANC payments were made compared to \$62,450 for the same month in 1960.

In November, 3100 persons received \$247,948 in OAS money compared to \$270,811 paid to 3202 persons in 1960 during November. In November, 294 persons got \$14,974 in county GA money, a decrease of \$1615 over the same month last year.

Welfare payments are almost always higher during the winter months when jobs are harder to find. But so far the local figures have continued to decline.

"We expect the number of payments to increase somewhat this spring," Ansell said, "but they should start to dip lower again in the summer months."

New changes in the state welfare laws—especially the new Medical Assistance for the Aged (MAA) plan—will affect the statistics heavily, however. Starting next Monday, 144 General Assistance cases will be transferred into the new MAA plan, causing a great savings in the GA program but increases in administration costs.

"Ray Ansell has done a wonderful job in reorganizing the welfare department," Supervisor Hulda McLean said. "Considering the statewide increases, our record is outstanding."

If the welfare department keeps coming up with such promising figures, there may not be so much squawking from the board of supervisors when its enormous budget comes up for adoption again next summer.

## Vermont Paper To Pay For Funerals Of Drunk Drivers

Burlington, Vt. (P).—The Burlington Free Press today offered to pay the burial expenses of any Vermont driver who is killed in a New Year's Eve car accident and who had previously registered with the paper.

In a front-page advertisement the paper invited motorists who believe they may drive while under the influence of liquor to call the paper and register in the "New Year's Eve registry."

The paper said it will then pay the funeral expenses of any registrant who is killed between 10 p.m. Sunday and 6 p.m. Monday.

The Free Press, Vermont's largest newspaper, said it was making the offer "to impress Vermonters with the need of not driving if they've been drinking on this New Year's Eve."

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