

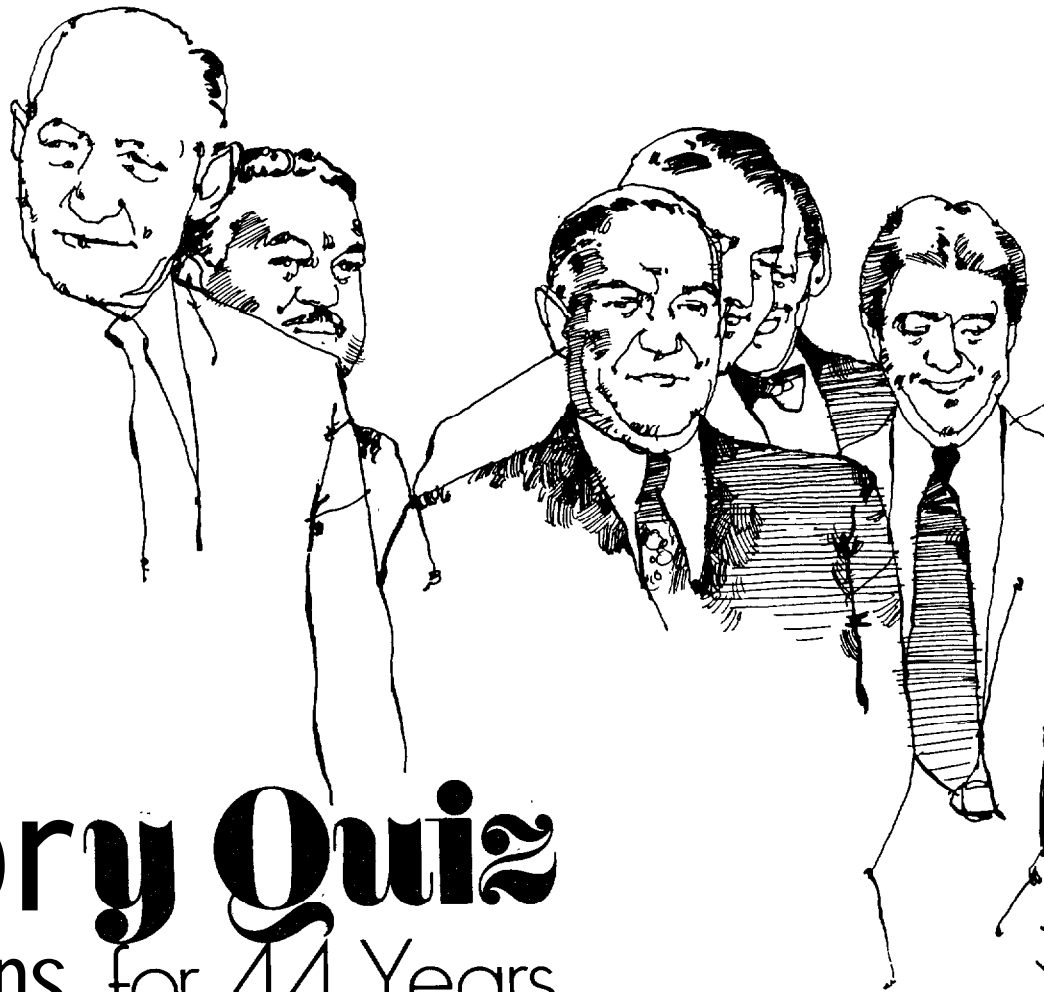
Oasis

AUGUST 1979

History Quiz

44 Questions for 44 Years





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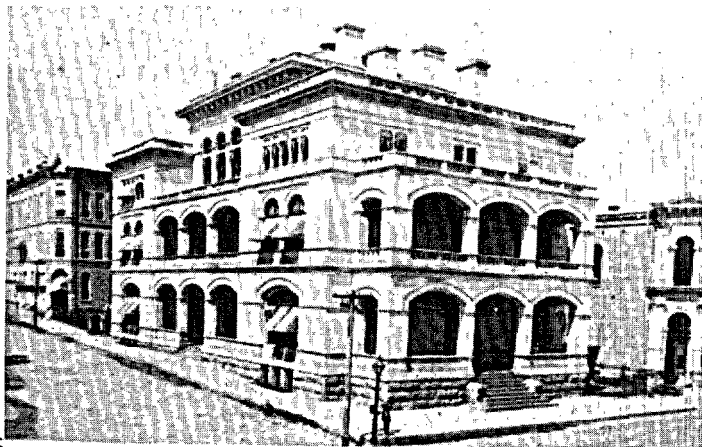
YOU MAY BE AWARE that social security came into being 44 years ago this month. But how much do you know about what's happened since then? Answer the following questions and find out:

1. Who received the first social security benefit check?
 - a. Charlie Smith
 - b. Ida Fuller
 - c. Mary Pickford
 - d. Larry Lewis
2. What was the Social Security Administration originally known as?
 - a. Baltimore Payment Center
 - b. Health, Education, and Welfare Department
 - c. Social Security Board
 - d. Social Security Advisory Council
3. Who was the first Secretary of the Social Security Board?
 - a. Oveta Culp Hobby
 - b. Maurine Mulliner
 - c. Frank Bane
 - d. Rex Tugwell
4. Who was the first Commissioner

of Social Security?

- a. Wilbur Mills
 - b. Arthur Altmeyer
 - c. Charles Schottland
 - d. John Tramburg
5. What were program service centers originally called?
 - a. Payment Centers
 - b. Area Offices
 - c. Branch Offices
 - d. Teleservice Centers
 6. Which country first proposed legislation to create a social security program?
 - a. Great Britain
 - b. United States
 - c. Germany
 - d. USSR
 7. Who was the first Chairman of the Social Security Board?
 - a. Vincent Miles
 - b. John Winant
 - c. Arthur Altmeyer
 - d. Thomas Eliot
 8. Where did the first district office open?
 - a. Washington, D.C.
 - b. Kalamazoo, Mich.

- c. Austin, Texas
 - d. Sacramento, California
9. When was the original Social Security Act passed?
 - a. August 14, 1935
 - b. January 3, 1940
 - c. August 1, 1937
 - d. July 1, 1936
 10. Who served longest as Commissioner of Social Security?
 - a. Arthur Hess
 - b. Robert Ball
 - c. Arthur Altmeyer
 - d. Victor Christgau
 11. What were the working hours for the Social Security Board in 1941?
 - a. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - d. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - c. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays
 - d. 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily and 9:15 to 1:15 Saturdays



At left is a sketch of President Roosevelt signing the original Social Security Act. The building above housed the first Social Security field office.

12. When was the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare formed?

- a. 1935
- b. 1944
- c. 1953
- d. 1964

13. In 1946, area offices were located where?

- a. New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Kansas City, Philadelphia, and New Orleans
- b. New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Birmingham, and Dallas

14. When did some employers first report quarterly wages on magnetic tape?

- a. 1954
- b. 1955
- c. 1961
- d. 1942

15. What was the “disability freeze”?

- a. A means of preserving the OASI benefit rights of those who became totally and permanently disabled before reaching retirement age
- b. A system of sampling the entire disability claims process, from initial filing through final disposition
- c. A means of earmarking certain cases to receive trust fund monies for rehabilitation

16. When was the **OASIS** first published?

- a. 1936
- b. 1940
- c. 1955
- d. 1960

17. When was the Appeals Council formed?

- a. 1936
- b. 1940
- c. 1954
- d. 1965

18. What is the International Social Security Association?

- a. An organization whose members exchange practical information on social security programs

- b. An organization whose members have entered into totalization agreements with the United States
- c. A group of people who are U.S. citizens living abroad and who have their benefits deposited in U.S. banks
19. What did the 1.2 million-pound flexoline file contain?
- The Numerical Register
 - Earnings records for millions of people covered by social security
 - The National Employee Index
20. When did most employers begin reporting earnings information on an annual basis?
- 1964
 - 1972
 - 1979
 - 1976
21. Prior to 1978, how often did State and local agencies have to report earnings for their employees covered by social security?
- Twice a year
 - Quarterly
 - Annually
 - None of the above
22. When did the Supreme Court declare the Social Security Act constitutional?
- 1934
 - 1937
 - 1942
 - 1950
23. Which former employee went on to become HEW Secretary?
- Wilbur Cohen
 - Ewell Bartlett
 - John Gardner
 - Oscar Pogge
24. When did the first branch offices open?
- 1940
 - 1951
 - 1959
 - 1963
25. The first field offices had only three types of jobs. What were they?
- Manager, field assistant, claims clerk
 - Director, claims rep, clerk-typist
 - Office chief, adjudicator-reviewer, secretary
26. When World War II started, what percentage of the accounting operations work force at Social Security was male? When it ended?
66. 34
 75. 45.
 40. 20.
27. What was the "Unified Claims Position Plan"?
- It added typists and stenographers to handle claims clerical work
 - It established the claims rep position
 - It was set up to handle the "disability freeze" workload
28. Why did the Division of Accounting Operations at headquarters open an office in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., after World War II?
- No office space was available in Baltimore, but there was plenty in Wilkes-Barre
 - There was a shortage of card-punch recruits in Baltimore, but many unemployed individuals resided in Wilkes-Barre
 - Wilkes-Barre is closer to Baltimore than Albuquerque, N. Mex. or Salinas, Calif.
29. Who was Secretary of HEW when legislation creating Medicare was passed?
- John Gardner
 - Caspar Weinberg
 - David Mathews
 - Oveta Culp Hobby
30. Which State was the first to open a disability determination section?
- Maryland
 - California
 - Pennsylvania
 - Ohio
31. What (or who) were Kornzappin, Tolchester, Pimlico's Wonder Horse, and Caught in the Rain?
- Names connected with after-duty events held for employees in the 1940s
 - Names of horses that ran in the DC. International the year of Social Security's birth
 - Names of SSA's bowling teams in 1952
32. How many members did the original Social Security Board have?
- 9
 - 3
 - 12
 - 5
33. When did the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance move its headquarters to Baltimore?
- 1937
 - 1939
 - 1942
 - None of the above
34. Which agency handled employer registration and account number applications immediately after Social Security was established?
- Federal Security Agency
 - U.S. Post Office Department
 - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
35. The three program bureaus under the Social Security Board were?
- Public Assistance, Unemployment Compensation, and Federal Old-Age Assistance
 - Accounts, Audits, and Research and Statistics
 - Public Assistance, Old Age Benefits, and Informational Services
36. The 1952 Amendments provided:
- An increase in benefits by \$5 a month, or 121% percent, whichever was greater
 - Wage credits of \$160 per month for members of armed forces serving since close of World War II through 1953
 - A method for preservation of insurance rights of the disabled during the period of their disablement
 - All of the above
37. What position did the Area Director replace?
- Social Security Representative, Field Operations
 - Assistant Regional Representative, District Office Operations
 - Regional Representative, Health Insurance
38. Who was the first Under Secretary of HEW?
- Nelson Rockefeller
 - Victor Christgau
 - Abraham Ribicoff
 - Reed Carpenter
39. What was BWEP?

- a. Bureau of Work-related Earnings Policies
 - b. SSA's first softball team
 - c. Broadening Work Experience Program
40. What was the "Slaughter House" crew?
- a. Members of the Architectural Committee that rejected (slaughtered) or approved all designs for SSA headquarters buildings
 - b. Members of the third junior management intern program who lived in Slaughter's Hotel in Washington, D.C., during their training period in 1952
 - c. The card punch operators on the 6th floor, Paca-Pratt Building in downtown Baltimore, who by 1953, were punching over 200 million cards a year
41. What was the Commissioner's salary in 1949?
- a. \$8,500
 - b. \$14,000
 - c. \$32,200
 - d. \$23,017
42. When did SSA join the Federal Telecommunications System (FTS)?
- a. 1942
 - b. 1959
 - c. 1963
 - d. 1971
43. What were the teleservice centers formerly called?
- a. Dial-A-Stat
 - b. Metropolitan Answering Service
 - c. Information, Please
 - d. Social Security Answering System
44. Who were the "girls" in Room 453, Equitable Building, in 1952?
- a. Librarians
 - b. Health unit nurses
 - c. Claims clerks
 - d. Members of the steno pool

ANSWERS

- 1. *b*
- 2. *c*
- 3. *b*
- 4. *d*. While Arthur Altmeyer was the first Commissioner for Social Security, John Tramburg was the first Commissioner of Social Security.
- 5. *b*

- 6. *c*. In 1881
- 7. *b*
- 8. *c*, on October 14, 1936
- 9. *a*
- 10. *b*, from 1961-1973. Arthur Altmeyer was Chairman of the Social Security Board from 1936-1946 and Commissioner for Social Security from 1946-1953.
- 11. *d*
- 12. *c*. On April 11, 1953, the Federal Security Agency became HEW by Reorganization Plan No. 1.
- 13. *a*. The function was transferred from New Orleans to Birmingham in 1947.
- 14. *c*, January 1961.
- 15. *a*
- 16. *c*. In its magazine format, OASIS was first published in January 1955. Its forerunner, the OASIS News, began as a biweekly 4- to 12-page mimeographed newsletter and was first published on March 25, 1941.
- 17. *b*
- 18. *a*. SSA became a member in 1957.
- 19. *c*
- 20. *c*, for the year 1978.
- 21. *b*. And they still do. Although most employers switched to annual reporting in 1978, State and local governments were specifically excluded from the annual reporting requirement.
- 22. *b*, May 24, 1937.
- 23. *a*. He resigned from SSA on Jan. 9, 1956, to accept a professorship at the University of Michigan. At the time, he was Director of the Division of Research and Statistics. He rejoined HEW in 1961, was named Under Secretary in 1965 and Secretary in 1968.
- 24. *a*
- 25. *a*. The field assistant was the forerunner of today's field rep, while the claims clerk eventually became a claims rep.
- 26. *a*
- 27. *a*
- 28. *b*
- 29. *a*
- 30. *d*
- 31. *a*. Names connected with off-duty activities sponsored by the Employees Activities Association. Kornzapoppin was a show put on by

- about 100 employees at the Maryland Casualty Auditorium on Nov. 16, 1946. An employee picnic was held at Tolchester Beach, Md., in 1944. Pimlico's Wonder Horse was part of a variety show act played by two employees (the front and back of a horse). "Caught in the Rain" was the number sung by six female employees in their 1947 production of "It's All in Fun."
- 32. *b*, John Winant, Arthur Altmeyer, and Vincent Miles.
 - 33. *c*. It had been located in Washington, D.C.
 - 34. *b*
 - 35. *a*
 - 36. *d*
 - 37. *b*
 - 38. *a*
 - 39. *c*. BWEP was a staff development program that began November 2, 1953. Its objective was to broaden the knowledge and experience of employees by giving them temporary assignments in other types of work within the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Participants were in grade GS-9 and above,
 - 40. *b*
 - 41. *b*, or about \$400 less than a GS-8 makes today. The Classification Act of 1949 set the salary of a GS-18 (the rate at which the Commissioner is paid) at \$14,000.
 - 42. *c*. Forty-seven cities were brought into the system in February. It was expanded to 355 cities within 5 months.
 - 43. *b*
 - 44. *a*. The Bureau's Baltimore reference library was celebrating its 10th anniversary in 1952. The OASI Library actually originated in 1936 to serve the Social Security Board. Eventually, the reference library in the Equitable Building-stalled by three women-and the law library in the Snow Building were consolidated.
- SCORE.** If you guessed correctly
- 39-44 SSA's historian might want to interview you
 - 29-38 You've probably had a long career with SSA
 - 22-28 Not bad
 - Less than 22 Not good