

GAR NEWS

WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION, INC.
558 S.E. 10th
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Vol. 2, No. 1
July, 1968

POSSIBLE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CLASS -- SHERWOOD. The Sherwood Area Action Group recently formed a committee to see what could be done about having a class for children (m.r.) needing a special education program in the Sherwood Grade School. The committee has had a meeting with Mr. Wood, Principal, Clyde Hopkins Elementary School, and invited Mr. Ray Rothstrom, State Department of Education Consultant for Special Programs to their monthly meeting on June 25, 1968. Several parents who have children needing such a program were invited guests. Mr. Rothstrom gave a very informative presentation. He told the group that before any school district would be obligated to have such a class, a minimum of 12 educatable certified children would have to be presented for the class by their parents. The hang-up many times is not with the school board, but with parents, who simply do not want to admit that their child needs such help. So, before the committee and parents can make any demands on the school board, it must demonstrate that there are 12 educatable certified children in their district and the parents of such children want the program. Mrs. Pat Smiley is chairman of the committee and Eunice Cochran, Reverend Otis Harden, Louis Weis, and Pat Eder are the other members. Much work still needs to be done with some of the parents, and Mr. Rothstrom has promised to keep in touch with the committee and Mr. Wood.

A recent referral by the Sherwood staff may indicate some of the problems involved with the parents. An 18 year-old girl in the community was referred to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and has begun testing and evaluation procedures so that she may eventually be trained in some occupation to enable her to be self-supporting. It took a good deal of persuasion to convince the parents that she needed to be trained and educated. They had overly protected her for the past years, possibly because they feared she or they would be ridiculed because of her retardation. She has remained at home helping with housework and babysitting her little brother. She has never been on a date with a boy, never had a girl-friend, gone to town or a show without her parents. Her folks explained that they would always take care of her. They were finally convinced that they might not always be here to do this.

AUCTION-SPAGHETTI DINNER -- GASTON -- HUGE SUCCESS. Sunday, June 9, was the day the Upper Tualatin Action Group kicked off their campaign to raise the necessary local share toward repairing the Gaston Community Hall. Their first project was an auction and spaghetti dinner and it was a huge success. Thanks to many generous contributions of articles, the day cleared some \$550. This was a real community effort. The idea came from Ralph Rasmussen. It was taken up by the Upper Tualatin Action Group and was put into action by many local people pitching in to help. And, boy, was that spaghetti dinner delicious!
Mama Mia!!!

This successful effort was followed up by a dance at the Community Hall on Saturday, June 29. It, too, was great -- to the sum of more than \$250. How about that! So, with these two successes under their belt, the group met with the Gaston City Council at their last meeting. The upshot was that the City Council decided to request that Mr. Raymond Bradley, Renewal Representative from the H.U.D. Office in Seattle, come and meet with them as soon as possible.

Well done, folks. It seems like things are really hopping out Gaston Way.

CONGRATULATIONS to Juanita Winkelman and Rosalie Baker, who recently passed the G.E.D. Test with very high scores. Both are graduates from Mike Dalton's class in the Sherwood Center. Juanita and Rosalie have both signed up to attend Portland Community College this fall.

Four more students are planning to complete the test this week-end.

Congratulations also to Nancy Hierlie from the North Plains class who also passed her G.E.D. test recently.

TEEN DANCE AND POSSIBLE TEEN CENTER - SHERWOOD. At their May meeting the Sherwood Action Group appointed Barbara Webb, a low income Board member as coordinator for teen activities. Barbara went to work with a bang at the June meeting she reported that she had contacted many places of business in the Sherwood, Tigard and Tualatin areas to get help in forming a Teen Center. Many showed interest and Barbara plans to get them together to see what they are really to put into the project. So far a pool table and a Juke Box have been donated.

A dance to help raise funds and also to keep the teens interested has been arranged. This will be on Friday, July 19 at the Fowler Jr. High at 7:30 PM. The use of the school has been donated with a small charge for a custodian. Thanks to Mr. Kingston, Principal, for his help. The Band will be Paul Bowman and the Playboys, a country-western group who are donating their talents.

Refreshments have been donated for over 200 people by the Pepsi Cola and Frito-Lay Companies.

Free advertisement on radio stations KVAN, KWJJ, KISN, the Tri-City News, besides posters should bring a good crowd.

There will be a charge of 50 cents stag and 75 cents per couple. All proceeds will go towards custodian fees and future teen activities. Well done, Barbara, for a bang-up job

YOUTH CLUB BEING FORMED IN GASTON. With a little help from Susan Long and Lewis Schoenberg, a youth club is being formed in the Gaston-Cherry Grove area. A meeting was held in the center last Tuesday evening and a record dance was held in the Community Hall Wednesday night. Interest is growing among the kids and the interest of the parents is being aroused.

The kids are now planning a day at the beach for Saturday, July 13. The trip will be for 12 year olds and up. The plan is to leave for Oceanside on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. It is hoped that all the kids will get involved, as more exciting things are planned for the future.

CLOTHES CLOSET DISBURSEMENT -- SHERWOOD. Since December, 1967, a total of 37 families with 166 children have obtained help through the clothes closet located in the Grange Hall. The total value of the clothing distributed is \$1,642.03. This includes some clothing donated to Good Will to the value of \$75. These facts speak for themselves, and the many people in the community, who have contributed to the clothes closet, should be happy to know that their contributions are appreciated by those in need. Thanks also to Katie Hegwood, Adelle Meyers, Rosalie Baker and Barbara Webb who have helped to unpack, straighten, and hang the clothing.

A LOOK BACK -- FAREWELL. With this issue, CAP News begins its second year of publication. The past year has seen the beginning and growth of the Neighborhood Center Program, the Head Start Program move into a second area of the county, as well as the accomodation of the Community Action structure to the recent amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act, and the resultant involvement of the County Commission and their representatives on the Board of Directors.

From month to month, we have tried to report some of the day to day activities that take place throughout the county in the hope that the efforts, dedication, and involvement of many people would be recognized in our fight to help people help themselves. At best, our report has been sketchy and limited by the lack of any special funds. We hope we have done something to demonstrate how people can do all kinds of things to help themselves.

No doubt, much remains to be done. Still, as Program Director, it does give me satisfaction to see the Center Program grow from non-existence to become something very much alive in the four areas in which we are now operating. Of course, this would have been impossible without the dedication and support of the staff from Hugh to our most recent employee. They have been to me perhaps the most real people I have ever worked with. This is also and especially true of the non-staff people in our four areas. I write this because this will be my last month with Community Action. I have accepted a management position with Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner, and Smith, and will be moving to New York in September. So I wish to say "Thanks" especially to Dr. Jones for his support and guidance as well as to the Board of Directors for their faith in me over the past year. 'Bye and every best wish for the future.

Peter M. Cullen

HEAD START -- MANNING. One of the measures of a successful Head Start is parent involvement directly in the program as a whole. We are very pleased with Head Start at Manning this summer, and particularly pleasing to the staff is the excellent parent cooperation we are receiving.

Thirty children who come from the Banks-Manning-Buxton-Timber areas are bussed each day by three volunteer parents, two mothers and one father. He works swing-shift in a local mill but still cares enough to contribute his time twice a day to ehlp transport children. On Field Trip days he devotes his entire morning to the program as do the other drivers.

Two teachers contribute two to three days a week in the classrooms in addition to the regular staff. One local lady serves as a volunteer classroom aide every day, and scarcely a day passes without at least one more and sometimes two more parents working as volunteers as well.

The Parents' Advisory Group consists of twenty-five adults, eighteen of whom are parents of Manning Head Start children. Of the eighteen parents, fourteen are couples. Mrs. Kenneth Wise of the chairman.

To date the children have gone on three field trips and there are seven more scheduled. Each child has had a physical examination by a pediatrician and teeth examined by a dentist. Upon recommendation of these doctors, physical and dental work is either being done or scheduled. On the evening of July 10 a successful pot-luck dinner organized by the parents was held at the Manning School and there were 22 adults present as well as innumerable children. Enough fried chicken and other edibles were left so that lunch for the children on the 11th was no problem, and no cost to the program.

If an explanation of the success of the Manning Head Start program is needed, that explanation is simple. The parents care.