

The Rural Tribune

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October, 1975

CLINIC SUPPORT GATHERS MOMENTUM

The Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center opened July 3, 1975, the result of a joint effort by El Centro Cultural and St. Vincent's Hospital. Virginia Garcia was a migrant child whose death might have been prevented by immediate medical attention. The Health Center represents the first concentrated effort to provide medical care for Washington County's summer migrant population.

The need for migrant health care has long been understood. For the year prior to the opening of the clinic, the County's health service providers (County Health Department, Forest Grove Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, and Tuality Hospital) had discussed migrant health care arrangements. Yet, to date, only St. Vincent's Hospital has taken decisive action.

St. Vincent's Hospital is a private non-profit institution responsible to the Sisters of Providence. The Sisters have, in the past, supported the United Farm Workers lettuce and grape boycotts. Within the past year the Sisters have expanded their support to include a commitment to migrant health care. In Washington County the responsibility for realizing this commitment rests with St. Vincent's Hospital.

As the negotiations continued between the County, Forest Grove Hospital, Tuality Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital it became apparent to St. Vincent's administrators and staff that the migrants were in danger of suffering through another season without adequate medical care. Summer was on, the harvest season underway, and a large portion of the migrant population was already in the fields.

St. Vincent's decided to move. In the middle



Joe Garcia asks County Commissioners to support health clinic at October 14th meeting. More than 100 people attended in support of the clinic. County Commissioners voted unanimously to endorse the continuation of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center. This endorsement will be carried to a meeting with the Sisters of Providence, who are the Board of Trustees for St. Vincent's Hospital.

of June, St. Vincent's approached El Centro Cultural in Cornelius for assistance. Centro contributed a facility to house the clinic. July 3, only two weeks later, the clinic was opened.

Although the clinic opened too late to service many migrants already on their way to other harvests, a substantial number of the summer's migrant population did receive much needed primary health care. Both St. Vincent's and Centro judge the clinic a success in meeting the need of low-income and migrant health care.

October 31, 1975 will mark the closure of the clinic. On this date, St. Vincent's will withdraw its financial support and staff from El

Centro Cultural's facility in Cornelius. As of this writing, the clinic will close without a definite replacement service for the next summer's migrants.

The absence of a definite replacement for the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center has been cause for concern. At the County Commissioner's October 14, 1975 meeting a request for written County Commissioner support was read by Jose Garcia, Director of the Migrant Education Council, and Chairman of the Migrant Health Advisory Committee to the County. The request is printed on page 6.

Evan Kaeser

Little Hope for



'LIFE-LINE'

In response to public pressure, the Public Utility Commission has requested the state's utilities to investigate "Life-line" and alternative rate structures to ease the burden of increased utility rates. Many Oregonians were concerned that the enormous rate increases granted by the P.U.C. to the utility companies this year would devastate those on low and fixed incomes.

The "Life-line" rate structure, similar to a plan recently enacted in California, guarantees a specific minimum amount of energy at a discount price. After using this minimum amount, the consumer is

billed at a much higher rate. The theory behind "Life-line" is that electricity and in some cases natural gas have become necessities of living in our society and that these forms of energy should be priced so that every citizen can afford to use them.

Formal hearings began October 13th with the testimony of the state's utility companies. All of the utilities voiced the opinion that someone else should provide energy cost relief to Oregon's poor. In response to P.U.C.'s question, "What alternatives to reduced rates for low income people exist?" O.M. Jones, President of Cascade Natural Gas, replied, "I suppose there are any number of alternatives, which could include doing nothing." However, some alternatives that were suggested were: energy stamps funded by general taxation or increase state welfare payments to match rising energy costs.

Some agencies involved in supporting a "Life-line" proposal are less than satisfied that the P.U.C. is acting on behalf of low income people in this case. Privately, the staff of the P.U.C. is against the proposal and they seem to favor dropping the whole problem in the State Legislature's lap. Unfortunately the Legislature doesn't meet for two years. Thus, with the utility companies and the P.U.C. both against any low income rate reductions, there appears little hope for any rate relief in the near future.

NOTE: Hearings reconvene in Salem on October 21, 9 a.m., in Room 20 of the Capitol Building. Any questions or concerns please contact James or Robb at 648-6646.

James Hynson
Robb Sansum

ANNUAL MEETING November 5

Community Action's annual Board meeting will be held Wednesday, November 5 at the First Congregational Church at 5th and Main in Hillsboro, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the annual meeting is to bring together all the people who have participated and are interested in Community Action's programs, to elect new members to the Board of Directors.

Community Action's Board of Directors consists of 21 members -- 7 members are low-income persons or representatives of groups of low-income persons; 7 members are persons from the private sector who are interested in and aware of the problems of the poor; and 7 members are public officials appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

This year five new members are to be elected to the Board -- 3 from the low-income sector and two from the private sector. Terms are for three years.

Low-income groups interested in nominating a person should contact the nominating committee through Community Action at 648-6646. A written application for a low-income position is required. Low income persons and persons from the private sector may be nominated and elected directly at the meeting.

As a federal taxpayer, you are part of Community Action's membership. If you have never had the opportunity to get acquainted with the people and their programs, this is a good chance to do so. Refreshments and entertainment will be offered after the meeting. Plan to attend!

THE RURAL TRIBUNE
Washington County Community
Action Organization
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Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

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Better Food at Lower Prices

The Washington County Manpower Office has placed a person with Community Action to act as a community development worker on the initiation of a non-profit community-run Food and Farmer's Co-op.

Washington County is one of the richest and fastest growing counties in the state. Yet in it are an estimated 22,000 poor persons. Unemployment stands at approximately 9%. Here, as elsewhere, inflation has cut deeply into consumers' purchasing power.

One of the hardest hit areas of the consumers' budget is food; low income people, especially senior citizens, often skimp on their food budget in order to pay rent and utilities. It has been estimated that one out of every four Americans is eligible for food stamps; less than half that number receive them. Even food stamps do not solve the problem. It has been proven that food stamp allotments are not adequate to purchase food for a nutritionally adequate diet.

In central Washington County consumers have no opportunity to purchase bulk foods which would increase the value of their food dollar. There is very

little opportunity to take advantage of the abundant local produce by purchasing directly from the grower. Senior citizens, without transportation, cannot travel to take advantage of lower prices and higher quality food. And, as the county has a high population of Spanish-speaking residents, these people are often unable to deal effectively with the English language stores in the area.

It is for these reasons that we hope to organize and establish a Food and Farmers' Co-op.

THERE WILL BE AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY-RUN FOOD STORE ON OCTOBER 23 AT 7 P.M. IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICE AT 546 EAST BASELINE HILLSBORO, OREGON. ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING TOWARDS BETTER FOOD AT LOWER PRICES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND CONTRIBUTE IDEAS AND ENERGY.

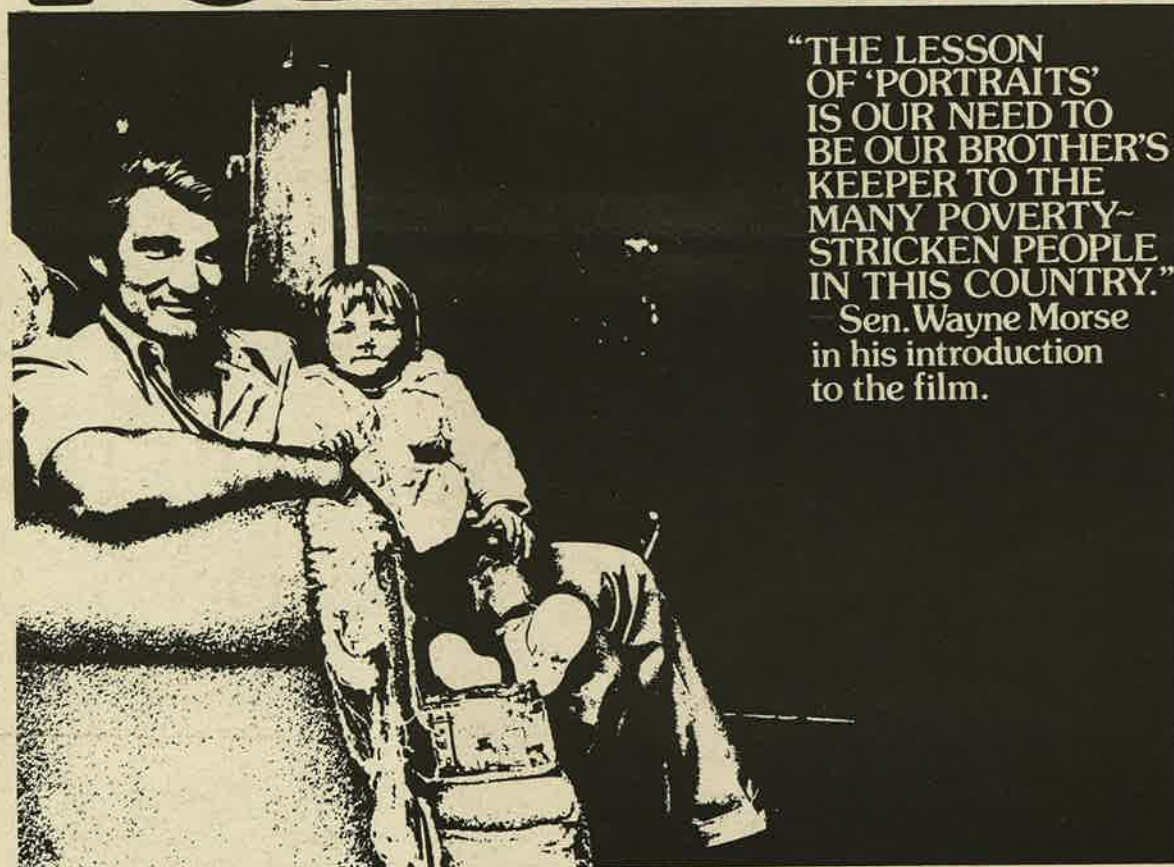
For more information call Tim Monnett at 648-6646.

la tienda de comida manejada por cooperacion

Se ira a llevar a cabo una junta organizacional para una tienda cooperativa de comida, que sera dirigida por miembros de la comunidad, el dia tres de Octubre a las siete de la tarde en la oficina del Washington County Community Action, en el domicilio 546 East Baseline en Hillsboro. Toda la gente interesado en trabajar juntos para mejor comida y a precios mas bajos, seran bien venidos en atender y contribuir ideas tanto como energia en este nuevo proyecto. Para mas informacion pongase en contacto con Tim Monnett at 648-6646.



PORTRAITS



"THE LESSON OF 'PORTRAITS' IS OUR NEED TO BE OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER TO THE MANY POVERTY-STRIKEN PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY."
Sen. Wayne Morse
in his introduction to the film.

Sue Winn is a Youth Manpower client and the newest member of the Rural Tribune staff. Sue has never worked in a social service agency before, and after viewing WCCAO's film on poverty, "PORTRAITS", she felt inspired to write the following article.

I have had the opportunity to watch a film called "PORTRAITS", made by Clyde Keller and sponsored by Community Action.

It is about Washington County, its people and its poverty. That is not to say that all people in Washington County are poor. I am aware of quite a few rich people.

But whose standards of poor and rich are we to go by?

The government would most likely consider myself unable to exist on my wage of \$2.25 per hour if they were to try and exist on it, but I consider myself rich because I am not in need of material possessions. But there are people poorer than myself who have families that need material possessions, and who are barely even existing on such low wages.

For one person \$2.25 is substantial to live on if you have a car that you got for \$50, a 2 bedroom house for \$75 per month (and you can split the rent with a roommate), and food stamps for half the price you would normally have to pay. I know many people and hope to meet more who are really working

for "the people" who are poorer than myself (believe it, there are) and that makes me feel really good!

I felt really disgusted when this film was shown at a meeting in Beaverton and one of the people there said that people like that (on Welfare) shouldn't even be considered human and should be starved to death.

It's people like that who will always create a barrier between myself and the "rich society". I would much rather be considered poor than be like that person.

We are people and we deserve the same rights as anyone else (that includes life).

Until the government can get it together (if they ever will) I only hope that all "poor" people will continue to demand the rights guaranteed to all human beings and that "PORTRAITS" will enter more peoples' lives so they can see that the way it is now for "poor" people is not the way it should be.

Do what you can! Write your congressperson, the President, whoever, whatever. It will never change unless our ideas and opinions are voiced.

Sue Winn

DRUG COUNSELING AVAILABLE

The Drug Services office has been open and client-ready since June of this year. The office is run by Steph Pump, Coordinator and Pat Johnson, Secretary. The Office is funded to operate only on a part-time basis at this time. The hours we are usually open are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 to 5 p.m. We are located in the County Branch Building on the second floor, at 27280 S.W. TV Highway, Hillsboro, Oregon. We can be reached by calling 648-8636.

Several exciting options are developing through the Drug Services Offices. Jim Goodwin will be leading a group once a week beginning October 23. The group will meet on Thursdays at the Tualatin Valley Guidance Clinic, from 2 to 4 p.m. This group will be open to anyone, regardless of age, sex, or the extent of drug involvement. The group will be limited to fifteen people. Please call us at 648-8636, if you know of anyone who would be interested. A maximum fee of \$1.00 per person, per session will be charged, but no one will be excluded for financial reasons.

A Parents Group is being planned and will start later this fall. This group will meet once a week. The specific aim of this group is to help parents learn how to cope with the drug behaviors and attitudes of their kids. It will be an opportunity to discuss their concerns, fears, and questions, and then develop the skills necessary to deal with situations that may arise at home. This group will be led by Bill Hoffstetter, who has been involved in the treatment field in Portland for several years.

If you know of any parents who could benefit from this please call this office so we can get them registered. The financial arrangements are the same as mentioned above.

Another service to be offered in the fall is one-to-one counseling sessions for adults or kids. This service will be available one day a week (probably Fridays) at no charge.

This service will be provided by Roger Toth, a team leader for Drug Treatment Services at CODA. Roger is particularly successful in working with women who have drug problems. Please call 648-8636 to schedule an appointment.

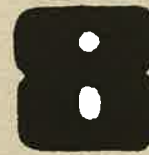
Steph Pump



Apply Now!!!

Housing Aid for Low-income Renters

SECTION



The New Housing Assistance Program

Section 8 Phone 648-8124

ATTENTION --- RENTERS !!!

ATENCION --- LOS QUE RENTAN !!!

RENTA

You may qualify for housing assistance under the new Section 8 Housing Assistance Program for low income families, handicapped, disabled and elderly persons. The Housing Authority of Washington County will now accept applications for a limited number of available housing units under the new Section 8 Housing Assistance Program for eligible low income families. Eligibility will be based upon the income of the family and the family size.

Assistance is in the form of a rent subsidy and may be provided in the home in which you presently live. Applicants on present waiting lists or already housed under other programs under the Act may apply without losing their place on the waiting list. All applicants for assistance under the new Section 8 Housing Assistance Program must apply specifically for that program and may do so by calling the Section 8 telephone number -- 648-8124.

BASIC FACTS

Section 8 is a federally subsidized program to assist eligible persons who need housing at a reasonable rent.

Persons who apply, are eligible, and are selected to participate will be issued a Certificate of Eligibility. Participants will then be required to find their own homes which must be in Washington County, must be within the rent limits of the program, and must meet the Housing Authority's housing quality standards. If the house of apartment meets the requirements, the participant will enter into a lease agreement with the owner.

RENT

The participants rent is based on the income of all family members. The Housing Authority will pay the difference between the amount paid by the participant and the actual rent.

IMPORTANT

The number of people who can participate in this program is limited. Interested persons should complete the application printed here and mail promptly to the Housing Authority.

TO QUALIFY

- A. You may be either male or female, head of household.
- B. There may be up to six persons in your household, but if you are single, you must be 62, handicapped, or disabled.
- C. Income limits are based on family size:

PERSONS	ANNUAL INCOME LIMIT
1	\$ 6,850
2	8,750
3	9,850
4	10,950
5	11,650
6	12,300
- To be eligible your total family annual income can be no more than the amount opposite the number of persons in your family, and assets must be within Housing Authority guidelines.
- D. Housing must be in Washington County.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
245 S. E. Second Street
Hillsboro, Oregon

Usted pueda que califique para asistencia de vivienda bajo de la nueva Seccion 8 del Programa Asistencia de Vivienda para familias que no reciben suficiente dinero, personas desventajados y desabilitados. El Housing Authority del Condado de Washington aceptara aplicaciones para un numero limitado de unidades de vivienda bajo la nueva Seccion 8 del programa Asistencia De Vivienda para familias elegibles que no tengan suficiente dinero por mez. Elegibilidad sera basada en la entrada de dinero mensual de la familia tanto como el tamaño de la familia.

Asistencia es en una forma en ayudarle en pagar su renta y podra ser ayudado en la misma casa o apartamento que usted esta viviendo. Aplicantes que esten presentemente en la lista o los que lla esten bajo la asistencia bajo de otros programas bajo del Acto pueden aplicar sin perder su lugar en la lista. Todos los aplicantes para asistencia bajo la nuevo Seccion 8 Programa de Asistencia De Vivienda deben de aplicar especificamente para ese programa y pueden aserlo por llamando a la Seccion 8 numero de telefon esta 648-8124.

PUNTOS BASICOS

Seccion 8 es un programa federal subvencionado para asistir personas elegibles que esten en necesidad de una vivienda a una renta razonable.

Personas que apliquen, esten elegibles, y son seleccionados para participar seran repartidos un Certificado de Elegibilidad. Participantes entonces seran requeridos en hayar o buscar sus mismas casas, que tendra que ser en el condado de Washington, tendra que estar dentro los limites de la renta del programa, y tambien tendra que estar apropiado con los niveles de calidad de casas del programa Housing Authority. Si la casa o apartamento esta apropiada a los requerimientos, el participante entrara en un contrato con el propietario.

Please fill in blanks and mail promptly to the Housing Authority. You will be notified by phone or mail when it is time for your interview.

La renta de los participantes es basada en la entrada de dinero mensual de todos los miembros en la familia. El Housing Authority pagara la diferencia dentro la cantidad pagada por el participante y la renta actual.

IMPORTANTE

El numero de personas que pueden participar en este programa es limitado. Personas que esten interesadas en este tipo de programa debe de llenar esta aplicacion atras de este folleto y enviarlo inmediatamente.

PARA CALIFICAR

- A. Usted puede ser hombre o mujer como encabezado del hogar.
- B. Puede haber hasta seis personas en su hogar, pero si usted es soltero o soltera, usted tendra que tener la edad de 62 anos, estar incapacitado, o desabilitado.
- C. Los limites de la entrada de dinero es basado en la familia:

Personas	Limite de la Entrada de Dinero Anual
1	\$ 6,850
2	8,750
3	9,850
4	10,950
5	11,650
6	12,300

Para ser elegibles, el total de su incomo anual en la familia tendra que ser no mas de la cantidad o puesta al numero de personas en su familia, y sus valores deben de estar dentro las reglas de la Housing Authorities.

D. La vivienda debera estar dentro del condado de Washington.

Por favor llene las linas y mandelo inmediatamente al Housing Authority. Usted sera notificado por telefon o por carta cuando sea tiempo para su entrevista.

<p>Last Name _____ First Initial _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ Age _____ Spouse's Name _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ Age _____ Address _____ Phone# _____ Message # _____</p> <p>CHILDREN: How Many? _____ List ages _____ Female (s) _____ Male(s) _____</p> <p>INCOME: List all sources (welfare, employment, child support, soc.sec., etc.) List Gross Income before Taxes.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Wk, Mo, Yr</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What is present monthly rent? \$ _____ How many bedrooms does your home have? _____ What utilities do you pay? _____ What kind of heat do you have? _____ Have you ever lived in low cost housing before? Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, where _____ Have you ever made application to the Housing Authority before? Yes _____ No _____</p>	Source	Amount	Wk, Mo, Yr																<p>Apellido _____ Primera Inicial _____ Seguro Social Numero _____ Edad _____ Nombre de su conuge _____ Seguro Social Numero _____ Telefon _____</p> <p>Entrada de dinero: Inclue todos sus recursos (welfare, empleo, soporte de ninos, seguor social, etc.) Inclue el grueso del dinero, antes de taxes.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Recusos</th> <th>Cantidad</th> <th>Sem.,Mez, Anual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sue es su renta ahora? _____ Sue tantos cuartos de dormir tiene su casa? _____ Sue utilidades paga usted? _____ Sue clase de calefaccion usa usted? _____ Usted nunca ha vivido en casas de low-income antes? Si _____ No _____ Si su respuesta es si, donde _____ Ha hecho usted una aplicacion con el Housing Authority antes? Si _____ No _____</p>	Recusos	Cantidad	Sem.,Mez, Anual												
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Volunteer Group Aids In Emergencies

Ever since the advent of the automobile, travel has been a way of life. However, sometimes it has been a hazardous way. Every weekend, thousands of Oregonians head for the coast. During these weekend trips, there are many breakdowns and worst of all, accidents.

The area between Glenwood and Tillamook is mountainous country and there are few people who live along the highway. Accidents or breakdowns can mean a long walk or in some cases, a long wait for assistance.

A group of citizens were concerned with this situation. They knew that their location and the area of mountainous roads between them and the coast were quite far from regular police patrol. Oftentimes it takes as long as an hour for an officer to arrive. They felt that something should be done to assist stranded motorists and help accident victims until emergency crews could arrive.

On November 4, 1972, a citizens volunteer group met and became known as "The Emergency Radio Patrol". They are an organization operating in western Washington County. Their prime concern is with helping stranded motorists on a citizen-to-citizen basis. Independent of all public jurisdictions, the patrol operates on its own funds and do not charge for their services. All of their equipment is furnished by the members.

Their primary equipment item is their Citizens Band Radios. All the members have these in their vehicles and in their homes. They monitor (listen) to channels 3 and the national emergency channel 9, twenty-four hours per day. The value of these radios in their work is well recognized by the members. It keeps them in constant touch with one another and allows them to reach someone with a phone to call for assistance from the police and ambulances. Many motorists have these radios in their cars and will call for assistance if they have a vehicle breakdown or need help.

The Patrol assists in wrecks, injury accidents, minor breakdowns, overheated cars and help the law enforcement agencies in any way they can. They have a harmonious relationship with Sheriff Warren Barnes and his officers as well as with the state patrol. They have assisted in looking for missing persons and lost children. They keep an eye on residences when the owner has to leave for awhile.



"The Mountain Man", Gerald Condon, is seen with the van used by volunteers to patrol and aid in emergencies along the Tillamook highway.

The leader of the Patrol is Gerald Condon, affectionately known to his friends as "The Mountain Man". This gentleman has a commanding personality that wins him many friends and has helped him in his rescue work. Many long hours have been donated by him in patrolling the highway and assisting stranded motorists. He drives up the mountain in all kinds of weather and has found many serious accidents where people needed first aid and help.

There are eleven active members in the patrol to assist Mr. Condon. They donate many hours, as was demonstrated during the Labor Day weekend. These members put in over 100 hours from 3 p.m. Friday until midnight, September 1st. They travelled over 250 miles, and donated the 23 gallons of fuel to run their vehicles. They assisted at two major accidents, three vehicles out of fuel, one flat tire, assisted a family whose engine blew up and helped the nearby diabetic camp with an unauthorized vehicle. The members had \$32.00 of out-of-pocket expenses. When Mr. Condon was asked why the members give up their time and their own weekend plans, he stated, "Our members are people, who haven't forgotten that people need help from one another."

The women in the organization are the backbone of it. They stand by the radio at home and listen, waiting for any emergency call from their husbands. They relay messages to them from people who need assistance.

Recently, the patrol received a donated van from an area company. This will be used as a rescue vehicle and first aid van. It will not be used as an ambulance. The members have donated time and money and other items to rebuild the van and paint it. Over \$600 worth of materials and labor have gone into getting it ready for the road and emergencies.

When you travel toward Tillamook, it is good to know that if you have a breakdown going up the mountain, one of the Emergency Radio Patrol will be around to assist you shortly. There is someone on the road almost all the time. If you have a Citizens Band Radio, just give them a call on channel 3 and say hello. Let them know if you need assistance. If you see the van with the name on it, just wave them down. They will be more than happy to help you. It is good in this day and age to see people such as Gerald Condon and The Emergency Radio Patrol working together to help other people without looking for personal gain.

Frank Boreson



SO YOU'RE A FARMER?!!

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture available, 1,976 farms existed in Washington County. A recent decision by the United States Department of Agriculture, however, may declassify 34% of those farms, leaving the County with 676 fewer "farms".

The old definition of "farm", according to federal statistics, stated that a person with 10 or more acres must sell more than \$50 in agricultural products per year to be considered a "farm". A person with less than 10 acres must sell more than \$250 of agricultural products per year to be a "farm".

Now, however, farms have been re-defined. A "farm" is now any established acreage from which \$1000 or more on agricultural products are sold per year.

This new definition is not only a question of semantics, but also helps to promote the change in Washington County from a largely agricultural county to an urban county. For tax purposes, the county defines a "farm" as any piece of property on which a farm operation is carried on to return a profit, with no stipulation as to the number of acres or amount of products sold. Buildings are still appraised at market value. So farmer's taxes should not be affected.

What USDA's definition does is raise the average incomes farmers across the country will be making this year, by effectively eliminating the small farmers from statistical consideration. In this way, the elimination of federal subsidies can be justified, as the farmers will appear to be growing richer.

The compilation of agricultural products also does not include value of crops raised for personal use, or value of products traded. This tends to discourage self-sufficiency and the old-time system of bartering, while encouraging farmers to get the highest prices possible for their products. This also encourages the sale of locally grown produce to out-of-state processing companies and distributors who can pay more than local markets.

According to Ken Hovick of the U. S. Statistical Reporting Service, this new definition is "simply to give us a more accurate picture of the number of farms." It appears that one-third of Washington County farmers may be out of that picture.

Judy Schilling

Help The Shelter Home

Community Action's Emergency Shelter Home provides emergency housing for 25 or more people per month, according to Rachel Reyes, coordinator. With winter approaching, there is an urgent need for more blankets, as well as sheets and towels. Many people staying at the Shelter Home arrived with only the clothes on their backs. Community Action attempts to provide for the basic needs of its clients, and relies solely on donations. Other small items are also needed such as soap and cleaning supplies. If you are able to donate any of these things, please call Rachel at 648-6646.

WOMEN

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.
Aloha High School
S.W. 185th & Kinnaman Road
(south of TV Highway)

The October meeting should be of interest to a large number of parents in the community. The subject for discussion will be "Sexism in Textbooks and Schools." There will be a brief slide presentation, followed by a panel discussion.

TOGETHER



**NORTH PLAINS
↓ SENIOR ↓
CENTER**

**504 S.W.
COMMERCIAL**

**PHONE-
647-5666**

**★ POTLUCKS EVERY 3RD
MONDAY-(OCTOBER 20TH-
OUTREACH TEAM FROM
VETERANS, FOOD STAMPS
AND SOCIAL SECURITY WILL
BE THERE)**

**★ CHECK OUT OUR FOOD
CLUB TOO!!!**



"No Alternatives Offered"

STATE COURT ENDS 'SELF-HELP' DIVORCES

Emily Chalmers has been a VISTA volunteer for the last year. During that time she spent a great deal of time and energy in trying to organize a self-help divorce co-operative. Recently, Oregon State Supreme Court dealt a fatal blow to her project as it was approaching reality. The Rural Tribune interviewed Emily to gain some insight into the politics of and the prospects for more legal help to low income people, especially as it pertains to divorce.

What is a divorce co-op?

Essentially what I'm talking about is a self-help divorce service. Ours was going to be non-profit and it was going to involve people who had done their own divorces or were in the process of doing them. --helping other people do their divorces, so it would be co-operative in the fullest sense of the word. A divorce service, like the ones they had in Portland is simply that. You come in and talk to a person and they would tell you what to do and how to fill out the forms, and have their typist type them up. The purpose of such a service or cooperative, is to help women and men do their own divorce by providing them with the information they need to fill out the forms. It's not against the law to not have a lawyer in a divorce. On the other hand, it's very hard to do it yourself because there's so many forms.

What led you to want to organize such a service?

What led me to want to organize this was what I was doing over at Legal Services, which was divorce counselling prior to the attorney's handling the case. People would come in and talk to me and say they need a divorce, and tell me what happened and I would fill out a questionnaire we had which just stated all the facts. After Legal Services stopped doing divorces, I would talk to them about divorce and try and suggest alternatives to their problems, which was difficult, because there were none. For the last four months I worked for Legal Services I was talking two days a week to 6 to 8 women who wanted to get divorces. They were often in totally untenable situations, and I couldn't do anything for them. Legal Services quit doing divorces because they didn't have enough clerical staff to do the tremendous amount of paper work involved.

And so I would have to tell them this. Women would come in and they would be in situations that were incredible. I was talking to one client on the phone and her husband came in and started beating her up while I was talking to her. Seeing these women in these situations led me to believe if they could just get a start on getting a divorce, if they would feel like something was being done, if they could go to welfare and say, look, I really am getting a divorce, then they would be better able to get out of those situations. That's what led me to do it. It was very depressing to just sit there and let these women tell me all those horrible stories all the time and not have anything to say to them in the way of an alternative.

What kind of response did you get when you first started telling people you wanted to organize a divorce co-op?

Everybody told me I was crazy. And, they were right, I was crazy. I read about it in a newsletter from a Legal Services group up in Washington--they have a divorce co-op in Anacortes. I went up there and found out about it, and went to Seattle, on my own, to see about a divorce co-op I had heard about up there. They were operating and functioning fine. So I decided it was a good idea to try it. I was warned that the courts in Oregon had been very unfriendly to commercial self-help divorce clinics and that quite possibly I would be legally prevented from doing it. But at that time there was legally nothing specific that said I couldn't do it. So I decided to go ahead and try it.

How about responses from other women? And the community in general?

The other women I talked to, like the people at



Women Together, thought it was a great idea. Of course the women in the community who needed help--I don't think they cared what you did, as long as they could get a divorce. Those women were really in a bad situation, and they still are, and they just wanted help.

So what happened to your idea for a divorce co-op?

Well, it went along great, for a while. I started working at the CAP agency and started organizing. I planned training sessions and meetings and I had spoken to quite a few people about it. I had a group of women who were actively assisting me. Everything was going along just great, until the Oregon State Supreme Court handed down their decision against Divorce American Style and the Oregon Divorce Council. They were prevented from doing any kind of work in the divorce area. This happened in late September.

How did that make you feel about the legal system and how it relates specifically to low income people?

That's a leading question... It always has been my feeling, and it still is, that the legislative and judicial systems in this country leave a great deal to be desired. Their priorities were quite clearly shown in this decision. What this decision does is protect the Bar Association. The Bar Association, it's my feeling, opposes these clinics because they were making money that the Bar Association felt they should be getting as attorneys. I'm sure there was also some professional concern about the fact that people were not being given the proper legal advice. The point is that those attorneys did nothing to correct the situation as it exists right now, which is that people cannot afford to get divorced. It costs, in Washington County, upwards of \$250 to get a divorce--a default divorce, with no children and no property hassles involved. That means there are four forms that have to be typed, and sometimes one very brief court appearance. That seems to me totally incredible. And if you have any kind of custody or property problems the price goes up. I had one woman call me--she quoted

me a price of \$450 that an attorney said he would charge her for doing her divorce. \$450! Can you imagine? Well, anyway, while attorneys were concerned that people might not be getting proper legal advice, they didn't do anything to alleviate that. They didn't say, well, let's work towards some kind of low-cost system for people who can't afford to pay those kinds of prices. And what we have, then, is just discrimination because people are poor. And that means we have a class-oriented society.

There's no group of attorneys, or no one that is pursuing this any further?

Not to my knowledge, and I've spoken to many people in Washington County and in Multnomah County. There is a group of women in Multnomah County, who are law students, putting out a divorce manual. We hope this will be available in the spring. But there is no group of attorneys working to deal with divorces for people who can't afford them. Now, Multnomah County has a family service that does divorces. I think it takes maybe a year to start the proceedings.

So what's going to happen to those people who can't get a divorce, who want a divorce, can't afford it, and Legal Services is unable to help them?

Well, they'll have to stay married. That's the only alternative left to them unless they have enough nerve to try and do a divorce themselves--which is really hard because the judges aren't very warm towards people attempting to act as their own attorneys. That's about the only alternative they have. As I said before, we hope to have a divorce manual in the spring, available at CAP, which we hope will encourage people to take the matter into their own hands and not to be afraid. The legal system is a very terrifying thing. Anybody who has been to court knows that. The judges, at least here in Washington County, for some reason simply don't want to help people who get bogged down in a divorce, who come to court with one paper missing, or don't have the proper affidavits. The judges don't seem to want to help those people. They send them away, they confuse them.

Do you think that might encourage people to just live together without being married, or to become bigamists?

Most people, I would think, who want to get divorced and can't would simply live with their prospective spouses. I have had clients come to me who were doing that. I had two clients, a man and a woman, both of whom were married and living together at the time. They wanted to get divorced so that they could get remarried because it was against their religion for people to live together without being married. Which is a real problem. And there's no basis for anybody saying that people shouldn't get married. There's a big myth that poor people shouldn't get married because they'll just have more children. I don't think that's true. I don't think people tend to have more children in a second marriage. I feel it's just a change of partners, and everybody is entitled to that. If a rich person can do that in this country, then a poor person should be able to do it. This is a democracy. Everybody is supposed to be able to pursue his or her right to happiness. And if a person's right to happiness means getting married to someone else, then they should be able to do that. And people should be able to get divorced. Simple as that.



ORATORIO DE JOSE GARCIA

GARCIA :

"Por los ultimos seis anos yo he visot esfuerzos dentro este condado para el desarrollo de un sistema efectivo del cuidado de salud para los inmigrantes y los pobres rural, pero, por causa de trampas y contratiempo atribuido a fluctuaciones en fondos federales, deficiencia en ayuda de mano, y disponibilidad de lugares, un sistema efectivo nunca fue realizado.

Es informacion publica que el departamento de salud ha sufrido una variedad de contratiempos en fondos locales y recursos por fuera; por ejemplo, por contratiempo defondos fue la escasez total de ingresos para un programa de verano para los migrantes. Aunque hubo varios esfuerzos hechos para incluir las demandas de la salud de migrantes en el plan regular de la clinica del departamento de salud, el personaje profesional y los ingresos soportivos no fue suficiente para compensar esta perdida. Tambien se ha hecho evidente que el departamento de salud ha estado muy lleno por la utilizacion de otros programas dentro del departamento. Entonces a muchos respectos, sin hacer caso de sus intentos, el departamento de salud no podia surtir las demandas de los pobres rurales y los trabajadores de labor.

En mi posicion como director de Educacion Migrante yo he tenido los dineros disponibles para servicios de salud para los ninos migrantes durante el verano.

Yo, en el pasado he tenido que conducir mucho de este dinero por medio del departamento de salud. Una cantidad grande de este dinero ha sido reservado para servicios dentales por medio de nuestro programa. Yo he negociado con el departamento de salud para utilizar este dinero por medio de sus facilidades. La seccion dental en el departamento de salud ha sido provado en ser un programa perfecto para nosotros y yo tengo toda la intencion de continuar este arreglamiento en el futuro.

Como presidente del Comite Consultivo Migrante de Salud, (Migrant Health Advisory Committee) del condado de Washington para el departamento de salud, yo he visot la debilitacion gradual de servicios disponibles para los migrantes. Esto ha sido un desarrollo doloroso en el tiempo cuando la necesidad de estos servicios ha estado creciente.

En Junio de este ano el Centro Cultural del condado de Washington fue proposicionado por el hospital St. Vincent de Beaverton, para ser ayudado en estableciendo una programa de salud interim que siviara las necesidades del trabajador de labor. El desarrollo de este proyecto se llevo acabo muy pronto, dentro de un mez, el centro lla estaba lista para operacion. Lla acabado, el Centro ofresio servicios de salud primaria a los trabajadores de verano y a la gente pobre rural, en el basio del que llege primero.

Esta facilidad, construida y renovada por el Centro Cultural fue contratada con el Hospital St. Vincent que uso la facilidad para tener su personaje profesional tanto como el equipo. En adiccion, un sistema de transportacion fue hecha por medio del Centro Cultural y el hospital. Las horas del centro fueron establecidas para la conveniencia de los migrantes. Todo en el desarrollao de esta facilidad era un sueno que se realizo; y ofresia servicios en una manera y variedad como lo que nunca ha vido en esta condado.

A como ha sido mencionado, los casos cuando estaban acabando la construccion de la Virginia Garcia Health Center fueron muy rapidos, y en ningun tiempo hubo intento en excluir otras instituciones, como el departamento de salud, (aunque yo he oido informacion al efecto que esto es una area de un mal entendimiento). Nunca fue un intento (y pensamiento toda via segura) que este proyecto sera en cualquier manera competicion a los programas del departamento de salud que lla esta bien ocupado. Hubo muy poro tiempo para negociar con el departamento de salud tocante a este asunto. Si es que hubo equivocaciones no se debe culpar al Centro Cultural ni a la Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center.

Los aspectos segientes hizo a este programa univo, las horas ajustadas de operacion, la accesibilidad de servicios, el ser bilingue el personaje, la habilidad de transportacion al hospital de Saint Vincent para la extencion de servicios soportivos y la energia de la comunidad que estaba asociada con la Virginia Garcia Center. Estos aspectos lo puso en una posicion para suplimentar, en vez de competir con los servicios ofrecidos con el departamento de salud. Desde luego que hai lugar para la utilizacion completa de las facilidades dentro este condado. Desafortunadamente hai areas que destinan conflicto, pero nadie puede dudar que el cuidado de salud se ha hecho (y seguira) un asunto politico de consecuencia muy grande.

Con el reparto de cuidado de salud primaria, toda

JOSE GARCIA PRESENTATION :

"For the past six years I have seen efforts exerted within this county to develop an effective health care system for migrants and the rural poor, but, due to pitfalls and set-backs attributed to fluctuations in federal funding, deficiencies in man-power, space and site availability, a more effective system was never realized.

It is public information that the health department has suffered a variety of funding cut-backs both locally and from outside sources; an example of such a cutback was the total lack of available revenue for the summer migrant program. Although some efforts were made to include the migrant health demands in the regular health department clinic schedules, the available professional staff and supportive revenues were not great enough to compensate for this loss. It has also become evident that the Health Department quarters have become crowded from the utilization of other programs within the department. In many respects then, regardless of its intents, the Health Department could not meet the demands of the rural poor and the seasonal farmworker.

In my position as Director of Migrant Education I have had monies available for health services to migrant children during the summer. I have in the past channeled much of this money through the Health Department. A large amount of money has been reserved for dental work through our program. I have negotiated with the Health Department to utilize this money in their facility. The dental section in the Health Department has proved to be an ideal set-up for us and I have every intention of continuing this arrangement in the future.

As chairman of the Washington County Migrant Health Advisory Committee to the Health Department, I have seen the gradual decline of available services to migrants. This has been a distressing development in a time when the need for these services has been steadily increasing.

In June of this year the Centro Cultural of Washington County was approached by St. Vincents Hospital of Beaverton, to assist them in establishing an immediate interim health program that would serve the needs of the seasonal farmworker. The development of this project proceeded quite rapidly and within one month the Center was ready for operation. Upon completion, the Center offered a full set of primary health services to seasonal farmworkers and other rural poor, on a walk-in basis. This facility, constructed and remodeled by the Centro Cultural was leased to St. Vincent's Hospital. This system allowed for full utilization of all the services offered by St. Vincent Hospital. The Center hours were established to more readily accommodate the migrant's daily schedule. All in all the development of this facility was a dream come true; it provided services in a manner and variety never before available in this county.

As has been mentioned, the events leading to the completion of the Virginia Garcia Health Center were

via en su infancia en este condado, todos nosotros tenemos la responsabilidad en ver que se desarolle en una manera razonable y proporcionar las oportunidades del desarrollo inventivo. Es verdad que muchos partidos interesado tienen en mente sus intereses, pero nosotros tenemos las esperanzas en trabajar juntos para un buen exito en fin, eso de desarrollar un sistema de bastante grande calidad que alcanzara a los habitantes que es el proposito. Un buen programa es uno que tenga las partes buenas de todos los partidos que estan participando. Lo que esta en orden entonces sera una propuesta construida y arreilada. Nosotros estamos hablandole a los comisionados del condado, el departamento de salud, facilidades medica publicas tanto como privadas, y mas personas para que nos ayuden en obtener el intento para continuar la operacion de la Virginia Garcia Health Center.

El sistema para el centro lla ha sido establecido, lo unico de esta propuesta y el exito de la operacion la ha elevado a una posicion en ser considerada seriamente. Nosotros sinseramente les pedimos su consideracion y soporte de nuestros esfuerzos para que sega operando. Nosotros aun tendremos que decir, en toda franqueza, que el momento lla ha sido comenzado y todos los partidarios de este proyecto estan listos para utilizar todas las maneras desponibles para ellos para ver que este reciba la consideracion que justamente se merece.

En cerando dejenme explicar mi estimacion en verme dejado hablar en frente de ustedes."

Muchas gracias.

very rapid, and at no time was any intent made to exclude other institutions, like the Health Department (although I have heard information to the effect that this is an area of misunderstanding). It was never intended (and that feeling still remains) that this project would in any way compete with the programs of the already busy Health Department. There was little time to negotiate with the Health Department on this matter. If there were any mistakes made it should not be blamed on Centro Cultural, nor the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center.

The following aspects made the program unique; the adjusted hours of operation, the accessibility of services, the bi-lingual nature of the medical staff, the availability of transportation to St. Vincent's Hospital for a full range of supportive services and the community spirit associated with the Virginia Garcia Center. These aspects placed it in a position to supplement, rather than compete with the services offered by the Health Department. In this same light then, our plans to continue the Center program should in no way interfere with the operation of the Health Department. There is certainly room for the full utilization of both facilities within this county. Unfortunately there are areas that appear destined to clash, for no one can doubt that health care has become (and will remain) a political issue of great consequence.

With primary health care delivery still in its infancy in this county, we all have a responsibility to see that it develops within reasonable frameworks and is afforded the opportunities of creative growth. At this point, competition, non-cooperation, and narrowness of vision by any party involved can only retard the process and inhibit growth. It is true that many interested parties have in mind their own self interests, but we hope we can all work together for a more far reaching goal, that of developing a high quality primary health care delivery system that will reach the population it is designed to meet. A good program is one that contains the better parts of all participating parties. What is in order then is a compromised construction approach. We are calling upon the County Commissioners, the Health Department, public and private health care facilities, and others to help us obtain the means to continue operation of the Virginia Garcia Health Center.

The framework for the Center has already been established, the uniqueness of its approach and the success of its trial operation have elevated it to a position to be seriously considered. We earnestly request your consideration and support of our efforts to keep it in operation. We must say however, in all frankness, that the momentum has already begun and the supporters of this project are ready to utilize all means available to them to see that the matter obtains the consideration it justly deserves.

In closing may I express my appreciation for your having allowed me to speak before you."

Thank you.

ISSUE.....

cont'd. from page 8

The County Health Department, as a public service agency, has different objections from the two smaller hospitals. Having local governmental jurisdiction over low income health care, the County Health Department is the likely candidate for any considered local government initiated low income medical care program. Lacking the financial and staff resources to open and operate a low income medical care clinic, the county could preside as a coordinating broker, contracting for services from Washington County's private health providers.

In such an arrangement the County Health Department would have considerable influence in deciding the character of the clinic through personnel and policy decisions.

The opening and operation of the Garcia Clinic can be taken as a statement of intent on the part of St. Vincent's. -- a statement of intent to both the target population, low income people, and the other health care providers in the County. St. Vincent's does intend to service the medical needs of low income people in Washington County. The question is how.

The Garcia Clinic has made the issue of low income medical care come forward. It is now the responsibility of both the low income medical care consumers and the providers to keep that in sight; to keep the issue of low income medical care a public issue.

Evan Kaeser

recycle!

A list of recycling efforts in Washington County has been compiled by Jim Long to be included in the Directory of Human Services. For your information we are including guidelines for preparing recyclables.

For a list of recycling center locations, call the Recycling Switchboard at 229-5555, anyone who has a copy of the Directory of Human Services, or Community Action at 648-6646.

How to recycle these materials:

GLASS: Remove all metal caps and rings, rinse well, sort bottle by color: brown, green, or clear. Some depots require that you break glass.

TIN CANS: Rinse well, remove both ends, crush down flat.

ALUMINUM: Rinse thoroughly, crush.

NEWSPAPERS: Tie securely into small bundles.

MAGAZINES: Same as newspaper.

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD: Cut down sides of boxes so that they will lie flat. Some depots require that you tie it into bundles.

PLASTIC: Rinse thoroughly, remove any paper or metal.

LEDGER: Tie or put in box or other container.

SCRAP PAPER: Put in box or other container.

OIL: Put in plastic or other unbreakable, unbreakable container.

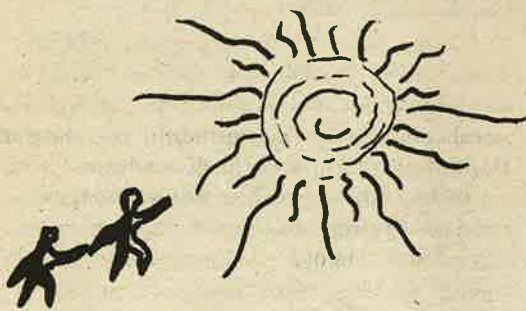


WIC

Volunteers who like to work with infants and young children are needed to help enroll participants in the Women, Infants, and Children Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC). This program is administered by the Washington County Health Department. For more information call 640-3549.

Next WCCAO Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m. Hillsboro City Hall, 205 S. 2nd, Hillsboro.

an invitation



to all Washington County young people

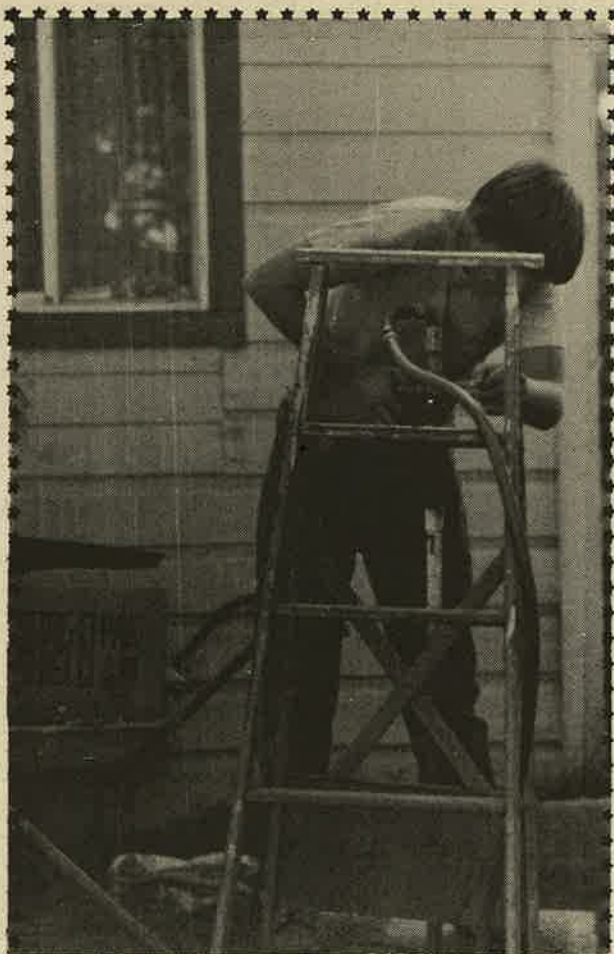
* Would you like to see a Youth Center in the Hillsboro area that really responds to the needs of all young people?

* Do you have questions about what rights you, as a juvenile, have?

* Would you be interested in getting together with others to share problems, concerns, skills, whatever?

* Would you like to learn how young people can effectively make their needs and opinions known to lawmakers and those who make decisions affecting you?

COME TO 546 E. BASELINE (COMMUNITY ACTION) IN HILLSBORO, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 3:30. OR CALL DIANNE ELIA AT 648-6646.



scout drills well

It all started in September when my dad, Dale Tilden, was drilling a well for Mr. Dan Garza. Mr. Garza said that Centro Cultural wanted a well.

My dad then in turn told me. I was looking for a service project for my Eagle rank in Scouts. I decided to use it as my service project.

I got two other boys to help me, Randy Harp and Steve Harp, both from my same troop. I decided that I couldn't afford to buy the casing and cement, so I went to different companies to see if they would donate them. Pool Gardner of Hillsboro donated the cement and Full Circle Farmers Supply donated the casing. My dad donated the drilling equipment and sand pump.

We got started on September 18, about 3:30 in the afternoon and drilled 20 feet and quit at 6 p.m. On September 19 we started drilling at 4 p.m. and got the casing in about 5:30 and quit. The next day, September 20, we drilled out of the casing and started sand pumping at 9 a.m. We finally finished the sand pumping at 1:30 p.m. The well for Centro Cultural was complete and ready for use.

Mike Tilden

TRANSPORTATION MEETING

The Oregon Department of Transportation is holding a public meeting in Portland, October 29, to discuss progress on the Oregon Transportation Plan with local governmental officials and interested citizens. The meeting will be at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, 1030 N.E. Union, at 7:30 p.m. Participants will review information on major transportation issues gathered at an earlier round of statewide meetings held in July. Also, on the agenda is a review of statewide goals related to transportation planning, and small group discussions of alternative policy assumptions which will guide the development of the Oregon Transportation Plan. Participants will also be asked to list transportation projects needed in their part of the state.



Centro's Library

If you want to read books in the Spanish language or books in English about Chicano history and culture, Centro Cultural has a selection of books for use by the community. At present, Centro is in the process of organizing and systematizing the books. If you would like to volunteer to help them do this, have books to donate, or would like to borrow books from their library, stop by the Centro, at 1st and Adair in Cornelius.

JOBS !!

The Rural Tribune has two positions open:

1) Bi-lingual writer. Must have good writing and translating skills.

2) Part-time typist. Piecework basis. Must be fast and accurate. Prefer someone with experience using an IBM Composer.

For more information call Don Patch at 648-6646.

FURNITURE NEEDED

This time of year in Washington County the demand for needed household items is far exceeding the supply. Many families need beds and mattresses, stoves, and refrigerators. If you have furniture or appliances in good shape or needing only minor repairs, please call Community Action at 648-6646. We will arrange for your donation to be picked up by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Hillsboro and given to a low-income family who needs it. We extend our greatest appreciation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their continuing help to needy families in the County.



QUESTIONS?

Do we have any right to do everything we want to do? Indeed we do not.

Do we have the right to do things and actions that will require restitution to be made? Indeed we do not.

One of the most sickening happenings of late is the move to install a restitution center in Washington County.

According to a dictionary, the word restitution means the act of restoring something that has been taken away or lost. If lost, it simply means the returning of the lost article; but if taken away or stolen, this presents an entirely different case.

What right does any individual have to rob, steal or take any item not belonging to him from anyone? Just what is happening to this nation of ours that gives a person the right to steal and rob to the extent that if caught he or she only has to pay it back. This creates open season upon all law abiding people to the extent that those who are robbing and stealing merely step up their activities secure in the knowledge that if caught they only have to pay it back.

Perhaps this will bring back vigilante forces of people to protect what is rightfully theirs. Where has honesty and integrity gone? They say our jails are too full and penitentiaries loaded. If this be the case, perhaps we too should build a wall around a sizable area, enforce the law, dump those who are not in accord with an honest, honorable way of life into this area, man the walls and let those inside go at it.

Thank God there are some of us left, from Washington, D.C. to the local level, who still believe in the honest way of life.

This economy has become so complex that not only are we concerned with the rights of a few dissidents that we have lost sight of the rights of the many.

So many have become parasitic, feeding on the diminishing resources of a fast disappearing majority we should pause here, think twice, and not declare open season upon those who are speedily fading away.

Heaven help this nation -- if moves are made in this direction, those who want to get and those who will not give that which is theirs, will make the Palestinian Arab - Israel conflict look like a Sunday School picnic. Most laws are made to abide by. Lets enforce them. Wake up Judges, what are you afraid of? Someone has to stop this trend.

Glenn Simmons

HEALTH - A PUBLIC ISSUE

Issues concerning low income medical care have surfaced via the Virginia Garcia Health Center in Washington County. Now that the clinic is closing, the issue is not whether or not there will be a low income health care clinic. There will be low income medical care. The question now, however, is who will administrate low income medical care and with what funds.

Additionally, the administration and funding of low income medical care is the concern not only of health providers, but of low income representatives. With the opening of the Garcia Health Center, St. Vincent's encouraged public concern. The closing of the Garcia clinic will not and should not stifle that concern.

The need for low income health care in Washington County has long been recognized by both health providers and low income representatives. During the year prior to the opening of the clinic, the county's health service providers (County Health Department, Forest Grove Hospital, Tuality Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital) met sporadically to discuss arrangements for low income medical care. However, these discussions never advanced beyond the discussion stage.

The Garcia clinic is the first direct effort to be made in the provision of total health care for low income people in this county. St. Vincent's surprising decision to staff and finance the Garcia clinic demonstrated St. Vincent's willingness to provide leadership in the implementation of low income health care.

The source of St. Vincent's commitment lies with the Sisters of Providence to whom St. Vincent's is responsible. Within the past year the Sisters have increased their medical commitment to low income people in general and to migrants in particular. In Washington County St. Vincent's is charged with the responsibility of realizing that commitment. The Garcia clinic can be seen as the direct result.

On Monday, October 20, representatives from the Virginia Garcia Health Center will travel to Seattle, Washington to visit the Sisters and see how far that commitment extends.

As a 28 million-dollar-a-year institution, St. Vincent's Hospital is by far the county's largest medical service provider. Compared to the quantity and quality of St. Vincent's resources, the county's other health service providers may seem insignificant. With its greater resources, St. Vincent's is certainly able to offer a more definite commitment to low income medical care than any

of the other health providers. Why not give St. Vincent's free rein to develop a low income health care program?

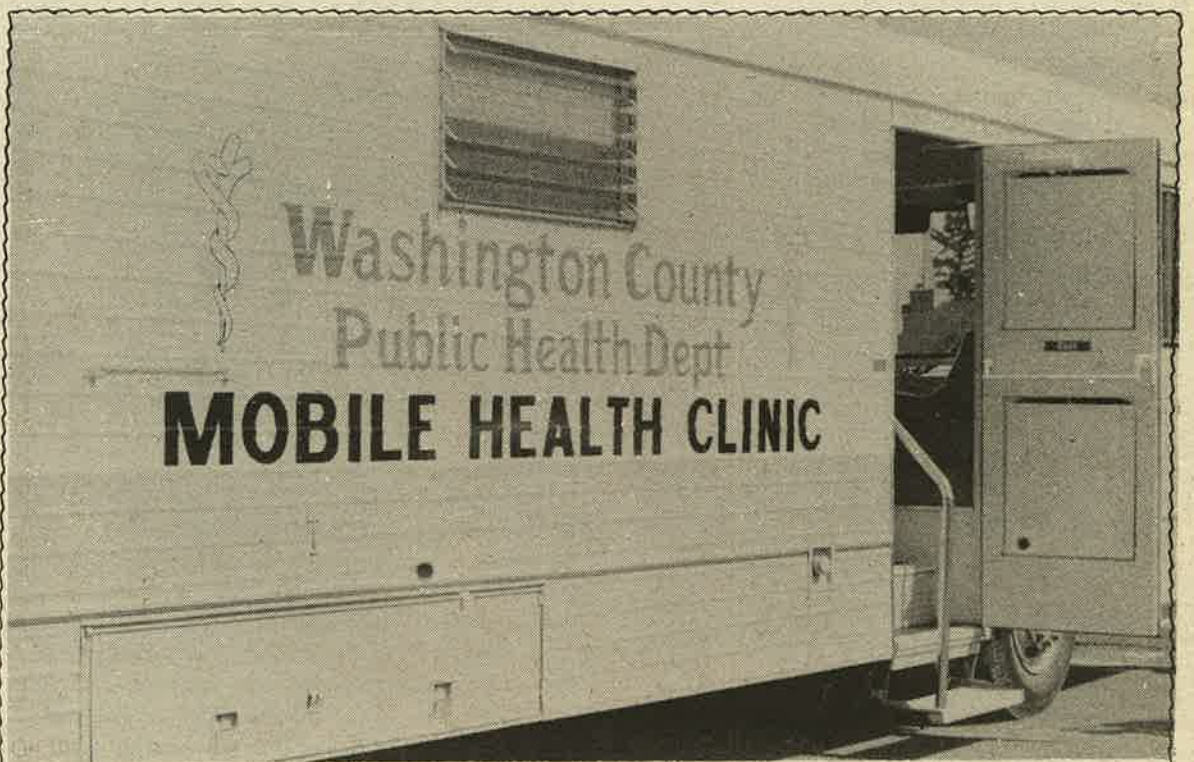
For the other health care providers the answer is easy. Certainly County Health, Forest Grove Hospital and Tuality Hospital do not object to low income health care. There are objections, nonetheless, objections which are slightly different for the County Health Department than for Forest Grove Hospital and Tuality Hospital.

For the two smaller private hospitals, Forest Grove and Tuality, St. Vincent's is more than just a magnanimous provider of low income health care. For these two hospitals, St. Vincent's is a competitor as well. To give St. Vincent's free rein to open and operate an outreach clinic in Washington County is to increase an already dominant rival's advantage. To these two hospitals, St. Vincent's is in the first instance concerned with providing services for those who can pay; its charitable concerns coming second.

St. Vincent's "pay as you can" Family Medical Care Unit (FMCU) can encompass its charitable and profitable dispositions. Under the Family Medical Care Unit if you are unable to pay the full price for medical services received you are asked to pay what your financial situation will permit. You are formally billed for services for hospital records, but not legally forced to pay. The only consequence of an unpaid bill is the hospital's record of non-payment. It is not clear how this policy is different from that of any hospital which projects a percentage of unpaid bills each year, which it writes off against profits on its tax returns at year's end.

It is clear how St. Vincent's could satisfy both its charitable policy and its expanding need for paying recipients to maintain financial solvency. With Washington County fast becoming the lifeblood of St. Vincent's Hospital it is not at all unreasonable to suspect St. Vincent's of wishing to increase the blood bank.

cont'd. on page 6



On the 15th of October, Washington County dedicated the Mobile Health Clinic. The van, which had been the tuberculosis testing van, was offered by the State Health Department to its counties. Washington County's bid for renovation was accepted and the van became the county's last year. Since that time as money has become available, it has been put into refurbishing the van. The van, according to Harry Kemp, director of Washington County Health Department, will act in conjunction with other Health Department programs, and will be available for emergencies such as controlling outbreaks of communicable diseases or assisting in natural disasters. The van has many possibilities, but also many limitations, such as its size and maneuverability and cost of operation. How effective it will be has yet to be determined.

ROTH RESIGNS: TIME - greatest problem

Ed. Note: Commissioner Roth has been a supporter of Washington County Community Action and its programs. His service to the County and to his constituents has been exemplary. We wish him good fortune.

The following is his resignation statement at the October 14, 1975 County Commissioner meeting.

"Since last June, I have been evaluating my ability to continue as a County Commissioner. My greatest problem has been time. At the very least, the Commissioner's job requires all day Tuesday, several evenings during the week and, in addition, weekend time to prepare for the Tuesday meeting. On top of this, a Commissioner must respond to calls during regular working hours. This work load varies from ten to thirty hours per week.

Vol. 3, No. 12 the Rural Tribune. This newsletter is published monthly by the Washington County Community Action Organization and funded by the Community Services Administration of the U.S. government. There is no charge for the paper. We will publish articles and announcements of particular interest to the low-income people of rural Washington County. For additional copies, or to be added to our mailing list, write to the Rural Tribune, Community Action, 546 E. Baseline, Hillsboro, Oregon, 97123.

Opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and not the opinions of either Washington County Community Action or the Community Services Administration.

The Rural Tribune welcomes letters to the editor. We ask letter writers to identify themselves by name and address.

I have found that I have difficulty doing just these minimum things. But the job requires even more. Citizen contact around the county is essential, and I campaigned in 1972 based upon increasing it. Under present circumstances, I must turn down nearly all invitations to appear at meetings, including important groups like our Advisory Committee and CPO's.

To stay in contact with our thirteen (13) city governments in the county, work for our point of view in the six or seven regional bodies in our area, try to influence the policies of the Association of Oregon Counties and to lobby the multitude of state and federal agencies is impossible.

I do not feel that I can do the job with the time I have available.

I also must consider my company. After careful calculations, my business associates and I determined that my serving as County Commissioner costs Grant and Roth Plastics around \$15,000 a year. It makes little sense for a company that contributed heavily to building the new Tuality Hospital, participated in the purchase of Rescue 10 for the Hillsboro fire department, supported nearly every major service club activity when asked, and has an unequalled record of support for worthwhile city and county projects, to mention only a few things, to go further than it has in community service.

But primarily, my job at Grant and Roth Plastics has expanded over the last three years, and I have found the time restrictions increasingly difficult.

Given these circumstances, I feel that it is only fair to both the County and my company to resign.

This is a difficult decision for four reasons. First, many of my friends and supporters worked very hard to help me get here. I am only completing three years of my term, and I feel that I am letting them down.

Second, I care very much about Washington County and have a strong desire to work for what I feel to be best for it. Third, I have a great love for the American political process, based upon our constitution which has served this country so well for 200 years. And fourth, I have found our County employees and our citizen advisory committee members to be excellent, hard working people, with whom I really enjoy working.

I was surprised to find out just a couple of weeks ago that Commissioner Wilson was also going to resign. Two of us leaving at the same time will cause some rough points, but I have set my resignation date as December 20, 1975, so that our successors can be selected one at a time.

Rod Roth
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Dear Readers -
Due to an abundant supply of contributed articles, the CALL FOR HELP page will not be run this month. It is presently being revised and will resume its usual place on the back page next month. If you need information on services call 648-6646.