

(Un Periódico en Español y en Inglés)

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Three of the speakers at the conference on police, government and Chicano relations were Migrant Education Director Joe Garcia, County Sheriff Warren Barnes, and Lawyer Noreen Saltveit, who represented area Chicano citizens.

## 'Like a Baby Playing with a Razor Blade'

### County Dealing with Demands

Chicano representatives, county and police officials met late last month at Pacific University. This meeting was the long awaited conference to solve problems between Chicanos and the county government and area police.

This meeting arose from a series of complaints against police over the last few months, some of which were brought out in the *Rural Tribune*. The *Rural Tribune* articles showed examples of rights that were apparently violated by police when arresting or questioning Mexican-American citizens.

Prior to the conference the Mexican-American Community got together for a *tardiada* (get-together) and had an open discussion on who was going to represent them and what were the problems.

As a result of the *tardiada* the meeting with government officials was expanded to include county government hiring, schools, and courts — areas where Chicanos feel they have not been fairly treated (for details of charges, see box). This conference showed official recognition that problems of discrimination exist, and the people present agreed to set up a task force dealing with the problem. Named the Human Resource Committee, this group will be the officially recognized minority and low-income advisory body for the county.

The meeting went well, with a new sense of accomplishment from both sides. Most of the participants asked to have their names submitted as possible members of this Human Resources Committee. They will be selected by the county commissioners at a later date.

As stated by some of the Chicano representatives the need for this Task Force was seen by the Mexican-American Community because of the doubtful funding of the Community Action Program and Valley Migrant League in the near future. These two programs were the main funnel of assistance in helping solve problems of the low-income and minorities of this county.

As Commissioner Eldon Hout said at the meeting, "If the county was to take over all the social programs at this moment it would be like handing a razor to a baby. Before he'd grow up and learn how to use it, he would have cut himself to pieces."

The Mexican-American participants at this meeting understood the predicament of the county, which was why they wanted and needed a Human Resource Committee.

(continued on page two)

## Fired Woman Fires Back

### Rights Suit Filed Against News Times

Karen Morrow was fired from her job at Forest Grove's News Times Publishing Company after complaining to her employer about lower rates of pay for women. She has since filed suit with the National Labor Relations Board against The News Times because she feels she was fired for filing a grievance. She contends she was not making enough to live on.

Morrow has also filed suit with the State Civil Rights Office alleging that she was discriminated against because of her sex. At The News Times she was hired for a job which is done only by women and was paid the lowest wage allowed under law. When she first started to work for The News Times, Morrow worked in the bindery, which was entirely staffed by women. Her pay was the minimum \$1.60 per hour. According to Morrow, her supervisor told her the reason for hiring only women for this job was that women are better with their hands than men.

Morrow says she knows of a man who applied for an opening in the bindery, and was told that the pay wasn't enough for a man.

The press room, another area in the printing company, is staffed entirely by men. Morrow wished to work in the pressroom; however, Vic Albro, head supervisor, tried to discourage her from wanting to work in this area. She was also told there was no opening in the press room's four-year apprenticeship program.

(continued on page two)



This corner, opposite the Taffrail Tavern in Forest Grove, was the scene of an incident which led to the arrest of Albert Clary. Clary was convicted of striking Enrique Gonzales with a fire extinguisher following a racial incident in the tavern. (Story on page three.)

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## ... More On Demands

Another way of dealing with Chicano complaints, at least with the juvenile courts, is the Youth Advisory Council. Director of the Washington County Juvenile Department. Mr. Jerry Harkins stated that the council was open for new members, particularly Chicanos. This council deals with problems of juveniles and works alongside the three district court judges.

Sheriff Barnes offered to let Mexican-American youth ride on patrol with his officers to better understand the

role of the patrolman as he works. Barnes also suggested that the Chicano representatives actively seek and send qualified Mexican-Americans to apply with the county police department to become policemen. He also stated that other police departments felt the same way in terms of hiring.

Representing the county were Commissioners Virginia Dagg and Eldon Hout. Jerry Harkins of the Washington County Juvenile Department and Washington County Counsel, Ed Sullivan were also present. Representing the police were Washington County Sheriff Warren Barnes and Police Chief DeRock of Hillsboro. From Forest Grove present was Mr. Patterson,

Chairman of the City Council and Claire Jackson of Catholic Charities in Portland.

Mrs. Noreen Saltveit, attorney from Marmaduke, Ashenbrenner, Merten and Saltveit, a public interest law firm in Portland, assisted the Chicano representatives with legal advice. Joe Garcia of Title 1M Migrant Education was the unofficial chairman for the conference. Others present were Juan Martinez of V.M.L., Father Arnold Beezer of St. Alexander's Catholic Church in Cornelius, Lionel Lucero of Centro Cultural, Señor Jose G. Bustos of the Employment Department, Pablo Ciddio of the Human Rights Council in Marion County and Arturo Cortez of CAP.

Amador Aguirre

## 'Como Bebido Jugando con una Navaja ...'

Representantes Chicanos y oficiales del condado y policia se juntaron el mes pasado en el Pacific University. Esta junta es la que estaban los Chicanos esperando por mucho tiempo para resolver las problemas contra los Mexicano-Americanos y el gobierno del condado y las policias.

La junta se iso por unos series de quejas contra las policios en los meses posados, unos de ellos que salieron en el Rural Tribune. El Rural Tribune iso estos articulos que enseniaron ejemplos de injusticia contra los derechos de unos Mexicano-Americanos por las chotas cuando hacian arrestos o nomas los paraban en la calle.

Antes de la conferencia, la comunidad Chicana se junto para una tardiada y discutieron quien las va representar y cuales eran las problemas.

Por la resulta de la tardiada, la conferencia con los oficiales del gobierno se extendio para incluir problemas de las escuelas, cortes y la manera como ocupan jente en el gobierno del condado. Estas son areas que los Chicanos se sienten que no los tratan con justia (para detalles de los cargos - vean la caja). La junta ensenio reconocimiento oficial que las problemas de discriminacion existen y todos presente sepucieron de acurdo que un "task force" que manije las problemas se necesita. Este task force se nombro Human Resource Committee y este grupo va ser reconocido oficial para ayudarle al condado y las chotas con recomendaciones de las minorias y todas las jentes pobres.

La junta corrio bien con un sentido nuevo de establa-cion por los dos lados. Casi todos de los participantes dieron permiso que sus nombres los sometieran para ser miembros del Human Resource Committee. Los nombres los van a seleccionar los comisionados del condado de Washington en otra fecha.

La necesidad para este committee fue vista por la comunidad Chicano porque los fondos de la Community Action Program y Valley Migrant League estan enduda dijieron unos de los representantes Chicanos. Estos dos proganos son los que ayudan mas a los pobres y minorias de este condado.

Como dijo el comisionado Eldon Hout en la junta "Si el condado trataba de tomar la responsebilidad de todos los programas sociales en este momento, fuera como dandole una nabaja a un niño. Antes que crecia y se ensenira como usar la se cortara todo."

Los Mexicano-Americano participantes en la junta entendian la situacion del condado, poreso fue la razon que ellos querian y necesitaban el Human Resource Committee. Otra manera de manejar las quejas de los Chicanos, si quiera en las cortes de los jovenes, es el Youth Advisory Council. Director de el Washington County Juvenile Department Mr. Jerry Harkins dijo que este consilio estaba abierto para miembros nuevos, Chicanos en particularmente. Este consilio ayuda con problemas de los jovenes y trabaja con los tres juezes de la corte del distrito.

Sheriff Barnes ofresio de-

jar jovenes Chicanos pasearse con las policias de patruyas para que los Chicanos entendieran mejor como trabajan sus hombres.

Barnes tambien dijo que los representantes Chicanos buscaran y mandaran Chicanos con buenas calificaciones para aplicar para ser policias. Tambien dijo que los otros departamentos de policios queirian que Chicanos aplicarian con ellos.

Representando el condado fueron los comisarios, Virginia Dagg, y Eldon Hout. Jerry Harkins de el Washington County Juvenile Department y Ed Sullivan de el Washington County Council tambien estaban presentes. Representando la policia fueron Sheriff Warren Barnes y el jefe de policias, De Rock de Hillsboro. De Forest Grove fueron Mr. Patterson, Chairman of the City Council y Claire Jackson de Catholic Charities de Portland.

Señora Noreen Saltveit - Abogada de Marmaduke, Ashenbrenner, Merten y Saltveit firme de leye en Portland assistio a los representantes Chicanos con consejos legales. Joe Garcia titulo 1M Migrant Education fue el chairman inoficial para la conferencia. Otros que estubuerion presente fueron Juan Martinez de el VLM el padre Arnold Bezer de la Iglesia Catolica St. Alexander's de Cornelius, Lionel Lucero del Centro Cultural, Señor Jose G. Bustos del Departamento de Empleo, Pablo Ciddio de el Human Rights Council en el condado de Marion y Arturo Cortez del Community Action Center.

A.A.

## What Chicanos Are Asking

Paid translators or interpreters for police departments, county and government agencies, courts and schools, thus shifting the burden from volunteers to paid interpreters. This would insure every person in getting a well qualified translator.

- A written statement of the rights of individuals under law and that these be issued in an understandable language (Spanish) at police departments and be used.

- Making the hiring practices within the civil service system more flexible.

- Dealing with Chicanos at a "Human Level" by people of authority and administrators (public servants) rather treating them as foreigners.

- A bail bond fund for Mexican-Americans who can't afford their own.

- A Task Force recognized by the county government to advice and request solutions in terms of Mexican-American problems, to the county government, police departments, and courts.

## Lo Que Los Chicanos Quieren

- Que los traductores sean pagados para los departamentos de policias, agencias del condado y el gobierno, cortesy escuelsasi cambiando la carga de voluntarios a interpetores. Esto asegurara a cada persona en agarrar un traductor que este bien calificado.

- Una exposicion escrito con los derechos de individuales abajo de la ley y que estos sean dados en un language entendido (Español) en dos departamentos de policios y que sean usados.

- Asiendo los practios de ocupar entre el systema de servicio civiles mas facil.

- Relacionar con Chicanos en un "nivel humano" por jente de autoridad y administradores (sirvientes publicos) en vez de tratandolos como extranjeros.

- Un fondo de bail bond para los Mexicanos-Americanos que no pueden pagar el de ellos.

- Un task force reconocido por el gobierno del condado para consejar y reconocer las soluciones en terminos de problemas de Mexicano-Americanos, para el gobierno del condado, departamentos de policias y las cortes.

A.A.



Lawyer Noreen Saltveit

(photographs by Lance Mushaw)

## ... More On News-Times

Two other people, Daryl Wilcox and Pam Strickland, quit because Karen was fired. Both Daryl and Pam were offered pay raises if they would stay. Wilcox had worked at The News Times for seven years.

Civil rights legislation maintains that people should receive equal pay for equal work. Morrow alleges that News-Times Publishing does not pay equal wages for equal work.

One example of pay inequalities cited by Morrow concerns the same job performed by a woman during the day and a man during the night. Company policy is that night shift received 10 cents an hour more than day shift. In actuality this man receives \$1.05 more per hour than this woman. Wilcox cited another instance where both a man and woman work in the darkroom performing the

same duties. He receives over \$4.00 per hour and she makes only \$2.50 per hour. When confronted with this inconsistency, the management said she received less because she didn't have equal schooling.

After Karen was fired, Paul McGilvra, publisher of The News Times, issued a memorandum to all personnel explaining Karen's dismissal. A portion of it reads, "After interviews with Karen and Vic Albro, Dan Gustafson and Paul McGilvra, the conclusion was reached that her philosophy of production organization was totally incompatible with our structure and that she would be much better off in another employment situation."

McGilvra said he did not wish to comment on Morrow's dismissal or any of the accusations she has made against The News Times. Since she has filed suit with The National Labor Relations Board, McGilvra said any comments would be made by his lawyer.

Peggy Marostica

## Public Defenders Coming to Hillsboro

In October, Washington County will have a public defender system to defend low-income people in criminal cases. A public defense lawyer takes only cases appointed by the court, and has no other private practice.

Public defenders take misdemeanor cases, felony cases, civil commitments, and juvenile matters, according to Jim Hennings, head of Multnomah County's public defense office.

The public defender system replaces the present court-appointed lawyer system and works quite a bit differently. Now, if a person is accused of a crime and cannot afford a lawyer, the court appoints him a lawyer who already has his own full-time private practice. This lawyer has to fit in the extra work of defending a court-appointed client as best he can. Because the lawyer already has a full work load, he cannot put adequate effort

into the court-appointed client's defense, said Hennings. The client suffers and does not receive his civil right of a fair defense, under the law.

Under the public defender system, lawyers are available full time to defend people unable to afford the cost of a lawyer. Since the public defender takes only cases appointed by the court and has no private practice on the side, the poor person receives a better defense because he has the services of a full-time lawyer.

Washington County's public defense lawyers will come from Multnomah County's public defense office. The three full-time lawyers will have their office within four blocks of the Washington County Courthouse, according to Hennings. He said the lawyers placed here will come with at least one year's experience, and will be backed by one full-time investigator. The basic staff will

also include one secretary and one receptionist. Any volunteer help will be welcomed.

Washington County will have the public defender on a one-year trial basis to determine whether it will benefit the client more than the court-appointed lawyer system, and whether it will provide a cost savings to the county. If it is successful, the county will assume the costs of the system after one year.

Hennings said that in 1935, the state legislature ruled that if a person can't afford a lawyer to defend himself, an attorney has to be appointed to defend him; and the county has to pay for the lawyer. For the first year 75 percent of Washington County's public defense system will be funded by the state. After one year, the county takes over the costs, if the system is successful financially and is more beneficial to the client.

P.M.

'The Lingering Language of Prejudice...'

# Clary Found Guilty of Assault

After a two-day jury trial this April, Albert Clary was convicted of second-degree felony assault, the result of an incident last August outside the Taffrail Tavern in Forest Grove. Clary and two friends, Carole Salsbury and Eugene Dunn, allegedly attacked three Chicano men, Enrique Gonzales, Sam Perez and Joe Vasquez. While the conviction only means that Clary was guilty of striking Gonzales above the right eye with a five-pound fire extinguisher, the full story of the incident came out during the trial.

While at the Taffrail, Gonzales, Perez and Vasquez were told by Salsbury and the bartender that a house rule prohibited them from speaking Spanish at the bar. Since they had not begun to drink their beers, the Chicanos asked for their money back. The bartender, Jean Krausneck, refused and poured their beers down the drain. All witnesses agreed that the men then politely left.

Clary, Dunn and Salsbury

followed the Chicano men outside. Stories differ as to what happened next. Clary and Salsbury testified that they were provoked when the Chicanos threw horseshoes across the street at them, one hitting Dunn's truck and another hitting the wall of a building. No horseshoes were found at the scene. No horseshoes were mentioned to the investigating police, either on the day of the incident or during further questioning later.

Clary, who says he "hates fights," crossed the street, fire extinguisher in hand. He claimed he wanted to explain to the Chicanos that he didn't want any trouble ("... for crying out loud, fellas...") and suggested that they leave, when they started swinging on him. Then, Clary testified, he began spraying and swinging the CO2 fire extinguisher in self-defense.

Gonzales, Perez and Vasquez said that Clary approached them screaming, "Why don't you go back to Mexico?" and "I'm going to

kill you!" The three Chicanos, as well as nearly all the other witnesses, either denied or could not verify that there had been any provocation for the attack. (Dunn was reportedly threatening to strike Vasquez with a jack handle, but was talked out of it by a bystander, Johnny Walker.)

Clary's attorney, Tom Huffman, appealed to the jury that a respectable, law-abiding man like Al Clary would surely not attack someone without a good reason. But it appears that the Clary case was not unique. Taffrail Tavern owner John Erlenbusch testified that he did have a house rule against speaking Spanish, because of past incidents where Chicano customers were attacked outside the tavern because they had been speaking Spanish. (In this reporter's opinion, if Mr. Erlenbusch were genuinely concerned with the well-being of his patrons, he would change the house rule to prohibit beating on people who speak Spanish.)



Throughout the trial, the assistant district attorney James Leahy and defense attorney Huffman, and several witnesses, referred to Gonzales, Perez and Vasquez (who are respectively 30, 27 and 25 years old) as "Mexican boys" and to witness Johnny Walker (who is 20 and black) as a "colored boy." So although this trial was a victory of sorts for the three Chicano men, much of it was conducted in the lingering language of prejudice.

Rural Tribune reporter Amador Aguirre, who would otherwise have covered the trial, was barred from the courtroom when attorney

Huffman claimed that Aguirre was to be subpoenaed as a witness. Aguirre was never served a subpoena, but Huffman, knowing he was not at the courthouse, went through the motions of calling him to the stand and looking for him.

Gonzales, Perez and Vasquez have filed a civil suit against the Taffrail Tavern and the accused assailants charging discrimination. Eugene Dunn has been indicted on a harassment charge stemming from the alleged threatening use of a bumper jack handle.

Clary has been freed, pending pre-sentence search and sentencing.

Eric Cair

# Clary, Hallado Culpable de Asalto

Después del juicio por jurado este abril, Albert Clary estaba declarado culpable de ataque contra tres Chicanos — Enrique Gonzales, Samuel Perez y Joe Vasquez fuera de la taberna Taffrail en Forest Grove. Clary fué acompañado de dos amigos, Carole Salsbury y Eugene Dunn. Según se afirma Clary golpío a Gonzales encima de su ojo derecho con un extintor muy pesado, y el juicio se ha hecho publica toda la historia.

A que el Taffrail, el cantinero Jean Krausneck y Señor Salsbury les dijeron á Gonzales, Perez y Vasquez que de hablar español está prohibido. Los Chicanos no ivan empezado sus cervezas y ellos pidieron su dinero del cantinero, que los rehuso. Luego el vació las cervezas en el desagadero. Todos testimonios están de acuerdo que entonces los Chicanos se fueron cordialmente. Nadie mencionó las herraduras a la policia investigando, ni el dia del incidente ni durante el interrogatorio. Salsbury atestigo que ellos fueron provo-

cado cuando los Chicanos tiraran algunas herraduras, una golpeando la camioneta de Dunn y una otra contra la pared de un edificio, ningunas herraduras fueron encontrado al escenario. Nadie mencionó las herraduras a la policia investigando, ni el dia del incidente ni durante el interrogatorio mas tarde.

Clary que dice no me gustan las plaitos cruzó la calle, con el extintor en la mano. El dijo que el quiso explicarle a los Chicanos que el no buscaba plaito con ellos ("... for crying out loud, fellas...") y les explico que ellos se vayan cuando los Chicanos empezaron, a ventar golpes. Entonces, testifico Clary, el empezó rociar y balancear "the co2 fire extinguisher", obrando en defensa propia.

Gonzales, Perez y Vasquez dijeron que Clary se los acercó chillando "Por que ustedes no vuelven a Mexico?" Y los voy a matar" — Los tres Chicanos y tambien con todos los otros negaron y otros no pudieron comprobar

que hacía una provocación para el asalto.

(Dunn según se afirma amenazó golpear Vasquez con un "jack handle", pero le paró el mirón, Johnny Walker.)

El abogado de Clary, Tom Huffman, dijo al jurado que un hombre tan observante de la ley como Señor Clary no golpeará alguián sin razón. Se parece que no es un caso único. El dueño de la cantina, John Erlenbusch, a testifado que el tiene una regla que de hablar espanol esta prohibido. A causa de algunos incidientes pasados cuando los clientes Chicanos fueron asaltados fuera de la cantina por que ellos hablaban español. (En mi pobre opinión, si Señor Erlenbusch estaba de veras simpaticó con sus clientes, el si cambiara la regla de la cantina a prohibir golpear la gente que habla espanol.) Durante del proceso, el assistant district attorney James Leahy y defense attorney Huffman y algunos testizor refirieron a Gonzales, Perez y Vasquez como "Mexican



Clary testified that he acted in self-defense after horseshoes were thrown, one hitting this wall and chipping away paint. The jury didn't buy the story, which was denied by other witnesses.

boys" (govenis Mexicanos) pero ellos tienen 30, 27 y 25 años y al testigo Johnny Walker (que tiene 20 años y es Negro como un "colored boy"). Aunque este proceso fue una victoria para los Chicanos, sin embargo estaba dirigido en la lengua de prejuicio.

El reportero del Rural Tribune, Amador Aguirre, que fuera covertó la corte, lo sacaron de el cuarto de corte cuando defense attorney Tom Huffman dijo que Aguirre ura un tesigo y que le iba dar una citación (subpoena). Aguirre nunca recibio su citacion pero

durante la corte le hablaron su nombre para testigo. Huffman sabia que Aguirre no estaba con los demas tesigos pero comoquiera lo iso como procedimiento.

Gonzales, Perez y Vasquez han puesto una demanda civil contra el Taffrail Tavern y los asaltadores por discriminacion. Eugene Dunn lohan denunciado con un cargo de "harassment" por aligamente ver tratado de usar un "bumper jack handle" contra los Chicanos.

Clary anda suelto horrita, esperando su sentencia.

E.C.

# Judge Raps Nixon Plan for Closing CAP

Regulations closing out Community Action Programs (CAPs) all over the country, have been ruled illegal by a federal district judge in Washington, D.C. On April 11, Judge William B. Jones ordered Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) Director Howard Phillips to withdraw shutdown orders sent out to CAPs all over the country. Judge Jones argued that the OEO dismantling was an unconstitutional use of executive power and that shutdown procedures violated three different federal laws. The ruling will keep alive Washington County's Community Action office, at least through the summer when federal funds run out for the current year.

The court ruling gives CAPs some hope of surviving — if and when, Congress decides to act on the future of the program. Until the decision, CAPs were not allowed to spend their funds for anything but "phasing out" — for arranging to close down their offices. But Judge Jones ruled that Congress had

not given CAPs and OEO money for that purpose. Shutting off OEO and CAPs, both part of the federal War on Poverty, will have to wait until the Congress decides what it wants to do, according to Judge Jones' decision.

In Washington County, the federal court ruling means that CAP will be able to work with low-income people until its current grant runs out at the end of August. Under the illegal regulations, CAP was on a strict shut-down schedule. Under this schedule, CAP could not work on projects for low-income people during its last three to four months. (The Rural Tribune, a CAP project, would probably have ceased publication.) Judge Jones ordered local CAPs to ignore the regulations sent out by OEO Director Phillips earlier this year.

Judge Jones ruled that Phillips' actions were illegal under three federal laws. First, he ruled that Phillips could not use funds appropriated by Congress for anti-poverty programs to shut down those programs. By voting

authorization for CAPs until 1975, Congress did not intend to close CAPs, Jones reasoned.

The federal judge recognized that Congress had not yet granted money for CAPs and OEO for the next fiscal year. But, he wrote, the failure of Congress to act is no indication that it has given up on the program.

Jones also ruled in favor of complaints that Phillips had violated the Federal Reorganization Act and that he had not published his shutdown orders thirty days before their effective date in the Federal Register, as law requires.

The Court ruling means that money already appropriated for anti-poverty work cannot be used to shutdown CAPs and OEO. But the future of OEO and CAPs now must be decided by Congress. Under the Court decision, it is left to Congress finally to decide — whether to grant money to continue the programs, or to grant money to be used to shut the programs down.

Paul S. Jacobs

# Group Shoots Down Welfare Police, Plan Still Alive In State House

A plan to give welfare fraud investigators the same standing as police officers was rejected by the State Welfare Advisory Commission. Meeting on March 19, the Commission refused to endorse the proposal introduced by chief welfare investigator Robert Harris.

As the Rural Tribune reported in its last issue, chief investigator Harris would give his fourteen fraud investigators all the benefits of being peace officers. They would, he argued, be better protected from assault and would receive higher pension benefits as a result of the change. Fraud investigators would not be allowed to carry fire arms, according to Harris.

But the State Welfare Advisory Commission was apparently not impressed with

the need for change for the fraud unit investigators. According to one observer at the March meeting, the advisory group thought that Harris' bill was simply unnecessary. Some Commission members felt that the change in training and pension benefits could be accomplished without creating welfare policemen — if the changes were needed at all.

The advisory group's vote does not kill the plan, however. A bill has been placed before the State House of Representatives. The bill received its first reading the day after the State Welfare Advisory Commission rejected the plan.

The bill does not prevent investigators from carrying guns. The bill (HB 3126) is still in committee at this writing.

P.S.J.

## Chicanos, Indios Cogen 'Air Base'

El Chicano-Indian Study of Oregon (CISCO) ha recibido diez edificios del gobierno federal en el camp de Adair para comensar un centro de educación para Indios y Chicanos del estado. El punto de mas importancia en este momento es ocupar voluntarios que vengan al Camp Adair para trabajar en limpiando, raspar pintura, trabajar en plomeria y reparaciones general.

Se va llevar como \$55,000 para reparar todos los edificios y esto lo van a recibir de contribuciones y servicios voluntarios.

"CISCO le pertenece a todos los Chicanos y Indios del estado como un centro de educación y abre las puertas para todos que quieran venir," Santiago Montoya, Chicano Director de CISCO. Patrick Melendy, Indio Director de CISCO tambien dijo

"Esto incluye Indios urbanos y de las reservas, migrantes y todos hispanos del estado."

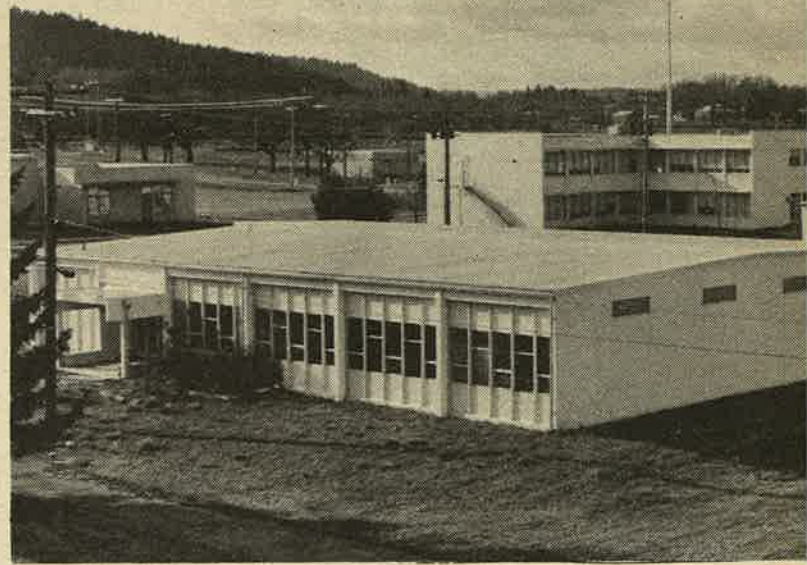
El campo va tener casas de emerjencias para jente neuva en el estado y un parque de 75 acres para los ninos siguiente los edificios explicaron Melendy y Montoya. Ellos tambien dijeron que halgun dia CISCO va ser el centro de educación para todos los Chicanos y Indios de Oregon y cuando un Chicano llega al estado va tener asistencia con casa y entrenamiento con el centro. CISCO espera entrenar 400 personal en cinco anos. Doscientos cincuenta de ellos viveran en el campo.

Horita CISCO tiene \$78,000 de contribuciones. Montoya y Melendy le calculan que para manejar el programa en capacidad lleno se va llevar como \$1.7 million. Los diez edificios y el

terreno se los pasaron a CISCO por treinta anos con el entendimiento que se va usar nomas para educación. Unos de los edificios de este Air Force Base incluye una iglesia, dormitorios, un gimnasio, un salon para bailes, clinical de doctores y dentistas, oficinas, y hasta un edificio grande para Child Care. Los otros los van usar para cuartos de esquila.

A lado de los edificios de CISCO hay diesiseite otros que se los pasaron a el Oregon-Southwest Washington Laborers Training Trust Fund y el Oregon-Washington Carpenters employers Apprenticeship and Training Trust Fund.

Estos programas están hechos para entrenar minorias y jente pobre en trabajos pesados como highscaling, dynamite, y construcción. El entrenamiento paga como \$60 por



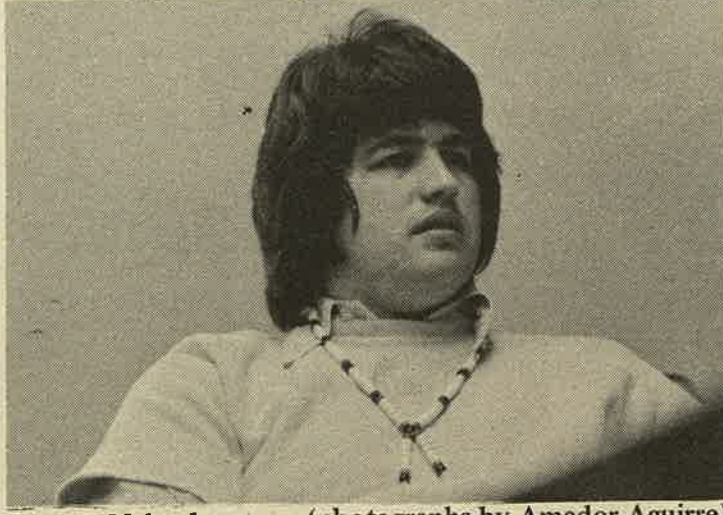
Camp Adair, site of the Chicano

semana durante aprendizaje.

Estos programas de entrenamientos van a depender con CISCO para reclutar minorias y van a trabajar con CISCO reparando el Camp Adair. A.A.



Santiago Montoya



Patrick Melendy

(photographs by Amador Aguirre)

### Gift from Washington, D.C.

## Chicanos, Indians Take Air Base

Chicano-Indian Study Center of Oregon (CISCO) has received buildings from the Federal Government at Camp Adair to start a state-wide educational center for Indians and Chicanos. The main concern at this moment is getting volunteers to come to Camp Adair and work in cleaning, scraping paint, plumbing, and general repairs. It will take \$55,000 to get all buildings functioning again — this will come from contributions and volunteer services.

"CISCO belongs to all Chicanos and Indians of the state as a center for educational purposes and will welcome everyone who wants to

come," stated Santiago Montoya, Chicano Director of CISCO. Patrick Melendy, Indian Director of CISCO continued, "This includes reservation and urban Indians, migrant workers and all other Spanish speaking people of the state."

The camp will have emergency housing for people just arriving from out of state and a 75 acre park for children next to the buildings, Melendy and Montoya explained. They also stated that someday CISCO will become the central place of education for all Indians and Chicanos of Oregon and when a Chicano enters the state he will be

helped with anything from housing to training from this center.

CISCO expects to train 400 persons in five years. Two hundred and fifty will live at the camp.

So far CISCO has received \$78,000 in contributions. Montoya and Melendy estimate that to run the program to its full capacity, \$1.7 million will be required. The ten buildings and underlying land were transferred to CISCO for a period of thirty years on the understanding that it be used for educational purposes only. Some of the buildings at the former Air Force Base include a Chapel, dormitories, gymnasium, dance hall, doctor and

dentist clinics, offices, and even a large building to be used for child care. Other buildings will be used for classrooms.

Next to the buildings allocated for CISCO are seventeen others that were transferred to the Oregon-Southwest Washington Laborers Training Trust Fund and the Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Apprenticeship and Training Trust Fund.

These programs are designed to train minorities and low-income people in heavy labor jobs such as high-scaling, dynamiting, and construction. The training pays about \$60 per week during apprenticeship.

These training programs will depend on CISCO for help in recruiting minorities and will work with CISCO in getting Camp Adair repaired. A.A.

### Centro Cultural's Art Class

The Centro Cultural of Washington County has started a Mexican Art Class. John Horns the instructor of the art lessons will conduct classes in the education building of the Forest Grove Methodist Church. Anyone can take these lessons, which are open to teenagers and adults mainly.

The reason for giving these lessons is to teach and get people acquainted with Mexican Art. The type of art is

mainly painting. Centro is hoping to get into pottery as well.

The fee is \$1.00 with no other material needed. Classes have already started and will end June 1st. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings for two hours from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 18th and Birch in Forest Grove.

For more information call John MacEachen at 357-8231. A.G.

### La Clase de Arte del Centro

El Centro Cultural del condado de Washington comenzo una clase de arte Mexicano. John Horns el instructor de la clase de arte va a conducir clases en el edificio de educación en la Iglesia Metodista de Forest Grove. Cualquiera puede ir a esta clase, que esta abierta mas bien para los jovenes y adultos.

La razon para estar ofreciendo esta clase es para enseñar a la jente y al mismo tiempo para que sepan un poco del arte de los Mexicanos.

La clase de arte es casi nomas puro pintar. El centro quiere ofrecer clases de ceramica tambien. Todo lo que tiene que pagar es \$1.00 y ningun otro material es necesitado. Las clases ya comenzaron y se acaban el dia primero de Junio. Las van a ser en los Miercoles por las noches por dos horas desde las 7:00 p.m. hasta las 9:00 p.m. en las calles diez y ocho y Birch en Forest Grove.

Para mas información hable con John MacEachen al numero 357-8231. A.G.

### With a Little Help from Our Friends

#### Family Assisted by Local Groups

Three months ago a young family moved into the county from Alaska. They moved because there were few jobs in Alaska and little in the way of medical facilities available for the wife, who was pregnant.

The husband and wife, who seem to be in their early or mid twenties, lived with the wife's parents for two months, until some kind of friction came up. Even though the young family now included a new baby, they were forced to leave.

After leaving the wife's parents' home, the couple said they tried to get help from the welfare office in finding a place to stay. They were unsuccessful and spent three desperate nights in their car with their one year old daughter and two week old baby.

Then the family was recommended to the CAP office for help. The people there got the husband a job interview with a local company in

Hillsboro, where the man is now employed using his skills in finishing and painting.

Before coming to the CAP office, the couple said they went to FISH, an organization which helps people in trouble. FISH gave them money to stay in a hotel for one night. The family had to sell a spare tire to spend an additional night at the hotel.

But the family explained their situation to the hotel manager. He let them spend several nights for little or no money. In return, the husband helped the manager out with some painting and other odd jobs around the hotel.

A local church was another place the family went to before coming to CAP. The priest at the church was trying to help them find a house and some money.

The family expressed their relief at getting off welfare and making it on their own — with some help from a lot of local people.

Sharon Allen

### Correos Venden Estampillas

Los Comisarios del condado de Washington aprobaron hace pronto, que se vendieran las estampillas de comida en cinco oficinas del correo en el condado de Washington. Esto va a comensar el dia primero de Julio del 1973. Va a ser desconocido cuales oficinas de correos las van a vender hasta que el U.S. Postal Services decida cuales.

Por el systema que está presente, la jente tiene que venir a Hillsboro para comprar las estampillas de comida. El plan nuevo va ser mas conveniente para la jente que vive muy lejos de la oficina de estampillas y que tiene problemas en transportación.

Hay otro beneficio de este plano. Al tener los correos que vendan las estampillas de comida, el condado se ahorra dinero porque no tienen que ocupar a nadie para que vendan las estampillas.

Este cambio fue propenido hace un año. Hace pronto un organizador de la comunidad de Washington County Community Action Center, Don Patch, se interesó y habló con oficiales del condado y del estado. Los comisarios fueron interesados y recomendaron este cambio. Este systema de que los correos vendan las estampillas de comida ha estado trabajando para otros condados incluyendo Yamhill y Clackamas. Estos condados se han dado cuenta que se ahorran un poco dinero.

La certificación como quiera va a estar en Hillsboro. Jente que está en asistencia publica, van aser certificados por la oficina del welfare. Jente que no está en el welfare, van aser certificados por la oficina que está presente en 1012 S.E. Maple en Hillsboro. Despues de ver sido certificados, la jente puede comprar sus estampillas de comida en cualquier correo que las venda en el condado.

A.R.P.

### Programa Nuevo Asista Veteranos

Chicanos y anglos pobres que son veteranos de Vietnam tienen ahora la oportunidad de obtener consejeros y ayuda para entrar a colejos. Este programa, Veterans Educational Center of Oregon, les ayuda a los veteranos con tuition gratis, \$30 por mes de gastos y dinero para transportación y \$220 por mes de beneficios de veteranos.

El Centro ahora tiene una oficina a quel Community Action Program, 330 N.E. Lincoln, Hillsboro. Consejero José Coto esta en la oficina todos los jueves — hable 648-6646 en Hillsboro — 228-0623 en Portland en cualquiera otra día.

# New Bills Can Help Consumer, Aid Poor, Young, Elderly

The Rural Tribune continues to watch the State Legislature for bills that seem likely to affect the poor people and minority people of Washington County. Until now, most of the action in Salem has revolved around the Governor's Tax Proposal. The fate of that plan has been decided by the May 1st special election. The Legislature will have to begin moving quickly to work its way through the record number of bills before it. Here are a few of the bills worth watching for.

would have a direct line to the State Capitol.

**HB 2020** If enacted, this bill would require unit pricing of retail goods on labels and in advertising. This means that goods would have to be labeled according to their price per pound, quart or other whole unit of measure. It would eliminate the torment of trying to compare the cost of 6 1/2 ounces of one brand of tuna fish with the cost of 11 ounces of another brand. (In both cases, the price per pound would have to be clearly labeled.)

The bill recognizes that many places in Oregon have little housing for low-income people and that federal programs are no longer doing enough to meet the housing needs.

### Rural Medicine

**SB 654** The Rural Medical Act. It provides loans to third and fourth year medical students who indicate that they will practice in rural areas with a shortage of doctors. For each year that the student actually practices in a disadvantaged region, one fourth of his loan will be forgiven.

### Youth

**SB 804** This proposal creates the Oregon Youth Corps — an organization which would provide summer employment for young people. The jobs would include maintaining state-owned lands and state highways. The bill contains a clause which requires "balanced enrollment" according to age, sex, ethnic and social background. While not directed only toward low-income youth, the program might begin to take up some of the slack created by the possible freeze on federal employment programs.

### Mass Transit

**HB 2276** If enacted, this plan would allow using highway funds for local and area-wide mass transportation projects. Up to eight percent of the highway money could be used for this purpose. The bill also puts the State Highway Commission into the business of giving assistance to public transportation projects.

**HJR 19** This bill allows the state to spend money from fuel and vehicle taxes on mass transportation. This is an amendment to the Oregon Constitution and would require voter approval before January, 1975, when the mass transit plan would go into effect.

### Seniors

**SB 217** This would enable school districts to allow their buses to be used to provide transportation in areas not served by bus lines. Senior citizens groups see this bill as an opportunity to get transportation to isolated seniors.

P.S.J.

### Consumer Relief

**HB 2468** This bill creates the office of Oregon Consumer Counsel, whose job it will be to protect the rights of consumers. The governor will appoint the Counsel to office. The bill seems to involve the state more actively in consumer cases. (The state does now have a consumer protection agency, with an office in Portland.)

**SB 205** This would provide money for a toll-free telephone line for reporting consumer complaints. Citizens with consumer problems

### Housing

**HB 2398** This proposal enables the state to come to the aid of low and moderate income families who need decent housing. It establishes a fund of up to \$200 million, which could be loaned to individuals and groups to provide low-cost housing. The fund would be maintained by the sale of bonds, which will be repaid as homeowners and builders pay off their mortgages. In any year where the fund has a deficit, the governor will be able to request general revenue to support it.

## Post Offices Will Sell Food Stamps

The County Commissioners recently approved a plan to issue food stamps in five post offices throughout the county. This will begin on the first of July of 1973. It is not yet known which post offices will issue them. That decision will be made by the U.S. Postal Service.

Under the present system, people must come to the Hillsboro Food Stamp Office to receive their stamps. The new plan will be more convenient for the people who live too far from the Food Stamp Office and who have problems with transportation.

There is another benefit to the plan. In having the post offices issue the stamps, the county can cut down on expenses by not having to hire someone to issue them.

This change was first proposed to the county about a year ago. More recently, a community organizer for Washington County Community Action became interested and spoke to state and county officials. The County Commissioners also became interested and recommended the change. Issuing food stamps at post offices has been working for several other counties, including Yamhill and Clackamas. These counties have found out that they save money with this process.

Certification for food stamps will still take place in Hillsboro. People who are on public assistance will be certified by the Welfare Office. People who aren't on welfare, will be certified at the present Food Stamp Outlet located at 1012 S.E. Maple in Hillsboro. Once certified, people will be able to buy their food stamps at any post office in the county that issues them.

Alma Rosa Perez

## County Program Helps Veterans

Spanish speaking and low-income Vietnam era veterans now have an opportunity for counseling and expenses necessary to enter a higher educational institution. This program, called Veterans Educational Center of Oregon, helps veterans with free tuition, \$30 stipend monthly and transportation costs and their well earned \$220 a month Veterans benefits.

The center now has a branch at the Community Action Program located at 330 N.E. Lincoln, Hillsboro. Counselor and recruiter José Coto will be available every Thursday. Call 648-6646 Hillsboro.

He can be reached directly on other days at 228-0623 in Portland.

## ... Some Bills Wait, Some Are Killed

A few of the bills reported on in the last issue of the Rural Tribune have been killed in committee. Most are still waiting for hearings and consideration by the committees they have been assigned to. The major exception is the sweeping tax reform legislation — the Governor's tax plan. Passed out of the Legislature, the plan depended on voter approval of a state constitutional amendment that would allow a major shift from property taxes to profits and income taxes for financing schools.

- Three bills concerned with the problems of migrant workers (SB 180, 181, 182) have been tabled by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. These bills would have kept small children out of the fields and provide for picketing of farms during the harvest season.

- The House bill on migrant labor (HB 2338) is still in the State and Federal

Affairs Committee awaiting action. The bill is complex. It establishes rules for organizing farm labor unions and for using compulsory arbitration to avoid strikes during the harvest season.

- One bill quietly killed in committee would allow tax relief for home improvements to low-income families. The bill (HB 2541) was one of several suggested by the State Committee for Progress through Law (CPL). CPL is an organization working for and representing the state's low-income citizens.

- A CPL-sponsored bill with a better chance of passage is the landlord-tenant bill (HB 2542). The legislation is now in the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Affairs. As state law now stands, renters have few rights, even if their dwelling is in a terrible state of repair. This law would allow renters to withhold rent, under certain conditions, until repairs are made.

The bill also includes obligations of the tenant to his landlord. Washington County Representatives Whiting and Ragsdale are both on the committee now considering this bill.

- The big effort of the current session of the Legislature has been the Governor's tax plan (HB 2004). Washington County's legislators played a key role in getting the bill before the voters in the May 1st special election.

In the final vote for the plan on the House side, four out of seven County Representatives backed the bill. Representatives AuCoin, Cole, Hampton and Whiting voted for the bill. Representatives Magruder, Hanneman, and Ragsdale voted against it. The three voting against the plan are all Republicans, as is Governor Tom McCall who proposed the plan. Only one Washington County Republican voted for the McCall plan in the House (Representative Hampton).

In the Senate's final vote, local Senators split evenly. Atiyeh and Holmstrom voted for the plan; Ouderkirk and Hartung voted against it. Interestingly, Holmstrom and Atiyeh voted against the Revenue Committee report on the bill, only to support the report when it seemed doomed to narrow defeat. This switch in votes on the committee report was critical in getting the bill out of the Senate and before the voters.

- When Oregon voters rejected the McCall tax plan on May 1, they threw the problem of tax reform back to the hands of the State Legislature. HB 2040, which gives renters a share of property tax relief, will now have to be considered. So will HB 2031, which establishes state support for public kindergartens. Both changes were included in the rejected plan. Some of the opponents of the McCall plan argued that the reform was not complete enough. The Rural Tribune will follow new proposals as they appear in Salem.

P.S.J.

## Commission Endorses CAP Proposal

If the President has his way, Community Action Programs (CAPs) will be closing as soon as their current funding runs out. In order to provide something to take CAP's place locally, Washington County Community Action has written a proposal for a Human Resources and Community Development Program. This agency would get information from the community on local needs, identify problems, and mobilize resources to solve those problems. The proposed program would also carry on CAP's self-help grant system and keep in contact with "low visibility" residents — the poor, the seniors and the minorities.

The proposal asks that the County and other local governments contribute \$100,000 to fund the Human Resources and Community

Development Program for its first year. The money could come through general revenue sharing money — over \$1 million in federal funds that have been redirected to local governments here, with few strings attached.

The CAP-proposed program calls for meetings to allow all residents of the County to discuss needs and problems. No agency in the County other than CAP has done this systematically; and CAP has been mostly concerned with measuring the needs of low-income people, not those of the community as a whole.

In preparing the proposal, CAP did a telephone survey to find out what county residents consider the most important local problems. CAP found that many citizens were concerned with problems of "human resources

and "community development." Forty-nine percent of the problems listed by the people phoned could be sorted into these two areas. The survey found that people were also concerned with planning problems — with roads and with taxes. But a large number of county residents identified problems such as education, drugs, crime, growth, ecology, and parks as top priority.

In contrast, CAP found that local governments, almost without exception, spend 95 percent of their time or more on "planning" and only a small part on the other problems identified by county citizens.

As the figures indicate, local governments have not devoted time to the more directly social problems. This will probably change if Community Action continues to

programs that take money from Washington, D.C. and present it instead to local governments.

With that happening, the CAP proposal argues, local governments will be forced to spend more time on social needs than they do now. The Human Resources and Community Development Program would provide a way for governments here to match services with needs and to make the best use of resources that are available.

The proposal shows examples of how money allocated to groups within the county was not spent because of a lack of coordination in handling human problems. The Human Resources and Community Development Program would help local people to avoid losing opportunities and money.

At a recent meeting, County Commissioners endorsed the proposal and recommended it to the County's budget committee.

*'Hostility and Fear... More Difficult Than the Work Itself'*

## Local Welfare Office Scene of Strife

The author of these articles, Karen Brentano, worked for the State Public Welfare Department for over five years, in both Washington and Multnomah Counties. She has worked as a case-worker for families, an assistance worker, an investigator, and as a manual writer in Salem. She knows the welfare system and writes meaningfully about it. We think her articles will stimulate open discussion of welfare and the problems facing the poor of Washington County. *Editor*

A woman with six years experience with the Oregon welfare talked about her reasons for leaving the Washington County office. "While employed there, I found myself faced not only with the usual difficulties but also with an agency generally lacking a conception and understanding of our clients and what service to these clients means. Never before nor after have I experienced such a lack of sympathy for or understanding of the poor — of both a financial and emotional nature. As a general rule there was not attempt to do anything but extend the least amount of help."

Defining what she means by service she said, "You can give service within almost any limitation. You take your limitation, like it or not, and go from there. You start on the principle that the client is telling the truth. Sure you get a few stories, but the majority of people have real needs. When you face your client, you let him know you give him your complete and sympathetic attention. His needs are the most important thing on your mind." Referring to her decision to leave her job, she added "I no longer work for the Washington County welfare because I can't perform my job there. I see myself as an advocate for the client, depending on his request and need, not a policeman."

In general, employees agree that the county welfare suffers from a virus of bad manners that has now become a major disease. Since the job has extraordinary inborn pressures, workers feel that all employees must be that much more considerate of one another. Rather than pursuing a defensive tactic,

the county welfare should begin to air its differences in a diplomatic manner and find some way to restore its common purpose of really serving the poor. Rather than being told what to do, workers would like to participate in outlining reasonable expectations for their jobs. They do not want to be forced into conformity, but to discover valid ways to express protests.

Morale at the Washington County Welfare office is low. Workers are finding their personal desire to help the poor thwarted by many pressures: a directive from Salem to save money, a lack of consistent welfare rules, and many resulting clashes at the local office.

"Most assistance workers don't deliberately try to hurt a client," said one welfare employee. "The system itself is to blame. Even if you want to go by the book you can't. There isn't a book." Talking about the impossible working conditions, he mentioned that due to a foul-up in the auditing department in Salem, duplicate checks were sent to many welfare clients in Washington County. The assistance workers were supposed to recover the extra checks but there was "no reasonable way to do it." (Some welfare recipients were honest enough to return their checks.)

Workers are further shackled by paperwork. To open an ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) welfare grant, the worker and client must complete at least seven forms, some of them several pages long. Each time a person on welfare moves, receives extra money or has any change in his welfare check, the Salem office must be notified.

"I would like more time to evaluate what a new applicant for welfare tells me," an employee said. "Sometimes you get cynical when you are taken in by a sob story that turns out to be false. Other times you suffer over the limitations of welfare when you see the client's larger need. He may need to talk, to share his life's experiences with someone and you haven't even got the time to listen."

A related problem is that welfare workers frequently do not get along with each other, and hostilities between

some workers extend over a period of years. Welfare work has always been nerve-racking, employees say, but the Washington County Welfare staff fails to support its workers when they need it. Speaking of a lack of communication with her supervisor, one worker said "We can no longer do justice to our client when we have so many pressures from the staff... I did intake Thursday when I was almost in tears. It took a lot of prayers to get through it." Lacking a clear concept of what they're supposed to do, many workers find themselves in a contest against administrators. Working together as a team on the client's behalf is impossible due to factions and cliques in the county office, and outside help from Salem is not always appreciated. For example, when a Salem auditor evaluated the Washington County Welfare and suggested improvements in internal organization, the welfare administrator withheld the report from the employees, although in every other Oregon county similar reports were read and discussed by everyone in the county welfare offices.

All welfare workers are evaluated numerically from 52 (poor) to 99 (outstanding). No one gets a 99, but now more than ever people are getting lower scores, sometimes dropping ten points or more from a previous score. While supervisors attempt to justify the number score in writing, a poor score keeps one from a merit raise, may prevent him from advancing to a better or different job, and "robs a person of his dignity," as one worker said. Several people have become physically ill after seeing their score, and evaluations are not always as confidential as they might be.

No one really likes this grading system and few people see it as a means to improved employee relationships or job performance. "They make us feel like kids," said one worker about the grading system. Though the Oregon Legislature declared that 25 percent of all state employees would automatically be denied merit raises from 1972 to 1973, county welfare employees who are denied take it as a personal attack. The system

makes it too easy for supervisors to grade out of a personal bias.

With the over-emphasis on saving money and improving the public image of welfare, real involvement with people is not encouraged, and workers feel that the Washington County Welfare insulates and protects itself from local issues instead of confronting them. The Rural Tribune, the first county newspaper to deal in depth with social issues, "was actually confiscated so no one could read it," said one worker. Welfare employees accustomed to open discussion of political issues are shocked to discover that in Washington County, liberal views are not widely tolerated by county staff. It would appear that liberal is peculiarly defined as any suggestion not issued as a directive from Salem.

"I consider it my prerogative to screen whatever goes into my reception room," said one welfare administrator, admitting that one issue of the Rural Tribune was confiscated. "I felt that the issue, which contained an article on foodstamps, would have been damaging to the people using the program. So I withdrew the paper from circulation."



Karen Brentano  
(photograph by Wes Taft)

The suggestion has been made for the past three years that a Chicano translator be hired to help the many applicants who can neither read nor write English. So far there is no one to do this, and since 1970 there has been only one all-employee meeting with leaders of the Chicano community. In addition, clients who ask for fair hearings and Welfare Rights representatives are thought to be "rocking the boat." Without the protection of either

legal aid of a welfare rights organization in Washington County, the client has no one to represent his side of an issue.

Many workers are disillusioned enough to want to leave their jobs with the welfare office. "My supervisor said I could get another job if I didn't like it here," said one worker. "Yet what can I do? I didn't graduate from college for one thing." Some welfare employees, unlike administrators, may not have the option to get another job and often they feel trapped as a result. They find that hostility and fear between workers is more difficult than the work itself.

"And we need more men on the staff," said a woman. "This office practically discriminates against men." Administered by a woman, the Washington County Welfare has 38 employees, of which only two are men. Male applicants are sought to balance the disproportionate number of women, but few men apply, partly because the starting salary of an assistance worker is \$586. If a woman is better qualified than a man, she'll be hired for the job.

Disheartened to see capable workers leaving the welfare and aware of the continuing internal problems, none of the workers see any easy solutions ahead. Some people think there should be organized employee training at the onset of a job to include talks with migrants, Chicanos, and the poor themselves. "Welfare clients should now be enlightened as to what to expect from us," said a worker, "and someone should help them understand what is expected of them. But before we can do that, we at the welfare have got to come to terms with each other." In the meantime, while Washington County grows at a great rate and its numbers of poor increase, its county welfare is frozen against the changes, and usually will not acknowledge the problems. (Fear of administrative reprisal is so great that each welfare employee interviewed asked that his name not be used in this article. Some issues of friction among staff are still so abrasive that workers refused me permission to discuss them. Yet everyone encouraged me to write this article, and while much of it represents my point of view, most of it developed out of what people either wrote or told me they felt.)

Karen Brentano

No Drunks, No Cadillacs

## The Welfare Poor: Abused by Poverty

In a year's time as an investigator for the Washington County Welfare, I visited over 1500 homes. My job was to follow up on referrals from assistance workers that would result in a reduced or closed Welfare payment. From February 1972 to February 1973 estimated savings to the Welfare added up to \$44,350 or about \$3600 a month. Money was saved when a person on Welfare moved without leaving a forwarding address, received extra money, or requested his grant be closed, and little of the savings represented outright fraud. I found the incidence of fraud was low, in spite of the fact that most Welfare grants do not begin to cover the essential needs of a family. The myth that Welfare recipients are cheats is perpetuated by a few well-publicized cases. Yet the myth is popular and even

some Welfare workers believe it.

"People on Welfare blow tax money on Cadillacs, color t.v.'s and booze" is a frequent criticism of the uninformed public. On the contrary, no one was ever drunk when I visited, and often I had to visit without advance notice. Only one recipient had a Cadillac, a sleek 1962 model, but it was financed through a loan company, not yet half paid for, and the upholstery was shot.

A car is not only a powerful status symbol in our society, but for the person on Welfare who may live in the mountainous area of Buxton or the suburbs of Tigard, he absolutely has to have a running car to look for work, go to the Foodstamp Center, keep appointments with the Welfare, and to drive to the University of Oregon Medical

School. The truth of the matter is not that Welfare recipients buy Cadillacs, but that many of them have no functioning car, little money for gas, and suddenly find themselves without means to go anywhere. Most of the rural areas in Washington County are not connected to a bus line. Except for a \$500 a month special fund, the county Welfare has no money to pay for car repairs as part of each family's check. If a person on Welfare enters job training, he is reimbursed at 5 cents a mile, while Welfare workers get 7-9 cents a mile when they travel on state business in their private cars. The 5 cent rate doesn't cover the cost of upkeep and repair, so that if a recipient's car breaks down, it is cause for real panic. As poverty begins to enclose a family and reduce its mobility, depen-

dency on the Welfare increases and the person on Welfare has no choice in the matter.

"You can live it up on Welfare" is another recurrent myth. Quite simply, most people on Welfare in Washington County live colorless and lonely lives. Mrs. Z, for example, is a divorced mother of an 8 year-old child who lives in a grim one-bedroom apartment in Hillsboro. Her rent is \$125, and her Welfare check is \$153 a month. Abandoned many years ago by her husband, she has no friends here. She came to Hillsboro from another town where she had a job as a bartender. She moved here to help forget the tragic death of the man she had planned to marry. She has no money to look for a job, buy foodstamps, or get essential furniture, even from a second-hand store. Her high rent and tight money situation are typical of what faces many single women on Welfare in this county.

Not everyone on Welfare is poor in the sense of fixed

emotional and financial helplessness, yet a Washington county Welfare recipient recently tried to solve his poverty problem by killing himself. To be poor and out of work may mean being half alive, living from one day to the next. You can't get a job without experience and you can't get experience without first having a job. Your telephone is disconnected, your car engine blows up, you lose friends, you avoid neighbors, your family relationships begin to disintegrate, and yet you see others making it. At the same time you often get blamed for many of the ills in society and for every penny of taxes, even though you have paid a few taxes yourself. Everything that makes a person proud of himself slips away until you feel like a nothing. You fill out long papers for the Welfare, sometimes your check is late, and while the Welfare's record of you gets fatter and fatter, your opportunities often narrow down to zero.

## Welfare Recipient Tells About Unanswered Questions, Confusion

One of the most basic problems that welfare recipients seem to have with the Welfare Department is lack of communication. Welfare recipients don't know their legal rights, and receive contradictory information from various caseworkers. The following is a story from a welfare recipient who has experienced these frustrations. J.N.

*As the result of an eye operation for a cataract, I was unable to return to work and thus began receiving welfare assistance in September, 1972. This amounted to a \$58.50 requisition for rent, an \$8.00 requisition for food stamps, and a \$21.00 requisition for miscellaneous items. (My rent alone amounts to \$75.00 a month.) Since I live alone in the country and am unable to get around or fully take care of myself at home because of my impaired vision, a friend, Sharon Damrill, moved in to help out. That month my assistance was dropped to a \$31.50 requisition for rent, a \$7.00 requisition for food stamps, and a \$20.75 requisition for miscellaneous items. I had no knowledge of this procedure or policy. Sharon also has no means of income.*

*In February, without warning, I did not receive any assistance. After inquiring at the Welfare Department, I was told that they had received a note from my doctor stating that he had released me from his care and that this was the reason for being cut off. At that time I still had an appointment with my doctor, had another eye operation coming up, and was still very much under doctor's care. In March, I was placed back on General Assistance and I am still wondering how February was any different.*

*At the suggestion of caseworkers Terry Vouch, Sharon applied for assistance for her aid to me. Her application was immediately turned down. After helping me out for three and one half months and after questioning the welfare department about possible assistance, Sharon was told that she was eligible to receive \$1.50 an hour for 4 hours a week for one month only. Why is it that only after much questioning and frustration this information is given?*

*After six months of General Assistance, because of four eye operations, I found out from a friend that I should be eligible for medical benefits from Welfare. As it stands now, I had to borrow the money from a friend to obtain Blue Cross coverage which partially covered my operations. At this time I also learned that I was eligible for reimbursement of medical related travel at the rate of five cents per mile. I had no idea of my right to these benefits, as this information had not been given to me by any of my caseworkers. When I confronted Ms. Pikar (who I just met after six and one half months on Welfare) with this, she told me to throw away the remainder of my medical bills as I had already paid more than welfare would. She then gave me a check for \$3.30 to cover travel expenses for mileage incurred in March, even though I legally qualified for that coverage from September, 1972 through January, 1973.*

*There is a possibility that I may be eligible to receive Aid to the Disabled or Aid to the Blind, but no effort is being made by my caseworkers to look into this. I have received contradictory information about this from various caseworkers and also the Public Welfare Department Rules and Regulations manual. I understand the overload the caseworkers have, but I do not believe it should be up to the recipients to have to probe and dig to find out where he or she is eligible for help. The frustration of not knowing where to turn or my legal rights causes distrust and bitter feelings. This bitterness is only enhanced when I read about salary increases for welfare workers and know how a person in need has to practically beg to get any help.*

Loretta Begin

(with Sharon Damrill and Jerralynn Ness)

### County Welfare Rights Group Now Forming

Welfare is a right for those who need assistance. The problems of welfare recipients are not solely the fault of the local offices. Much of these problems come from changing policy in Salem that does not get sent out efficiently. As a result, welfare recipients are often uninformed of their rights and feel much frustration.

A welfare rights organization is being formed in Washington County that will meet regularly with all interested people. The main purpose of this organization is to inform welfare recipients of their rights and to insure that they are receiving fair treatment and their rightful benefits. Anyone having problems, questions or interest, call Jerralynn Ness at the Community Action office, 648-6646.

### Community Huddle's Lunch Meeting, May 15

The Community Huddle is sponsoring a special meeting to discuss the fiscal crisis facing social service agencies. Curtis Culver will be guest speaker. Mr. Culver is president of Interact, a planning and coordinating council for human needs and resources in Salem. He will speak to city and county officials and people from interested social service agencies about the future of revenue sharing in support of social services.

The brown bag lunch meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, May 15 in the Washington County Courthouse. If there are questions

concerning this meeting, contact the Washington County 4-C Committee at 648-6646.

### Board Meeting for CAP

CAP will hold its next board meeting Wednesday, May 16, at 8:00 p.m. Along with other things on the agenda, the staff will bring the board up to date on the status of the Human Resources and Community Development proposal. The meeting will be held at the CAP office at 330 N.E. Lincoln in Hillsboro. The meeting is open to the public.



## Commissioners Masters, Wilson Discuss County Poor

County government will have a chance of taking over Community Action Programs through special Revenue sharing if Congress does not fund it for 1974.

To find out where they stood on this, the Rural Tribune interviewed Washington County Commissioners Burt Wilson and Bill Masters.

When asked about this, Commissioner Wilson, in between phone calls and his office responsibilities, expanded on how he felt about the matter. "I haven't been doing anything for the poor." He said that as a commissioner he obviously felt responsible for community action programs. "But I am only one vote. There are four more others."

Discussing the cutting of funds to CAP and the dismantling of OEO, he commented, "We don't know that yet. I don't believe it's completely going to come apart. We would be unable to take it over anyway."

Asked about using Revenue Sharing to fund CAP, he said that it would be impossible. "The amount of money we've been getting is so small.

I'd have to know more about the situation so I'm not sure at this time." He continued, "We have lots of problems in Washington County. The county is a wealthy one but the revenue sharing money is small. Our county government is poor. We are growing fast. We need more money to run the county with and to take care of living needs. We've had a very severe winter in which the roads and bridges of Washington County were heavily affected. This year, our road levy was turned down. The money used is only from the gas tax and not property tax and that is not enough." In his closing remarks, commissioner Wilson said that the only other way out would be having the state fund Community Action Programs.

In our interview with Commissioner Bill Master, the Commissioner expanded on some of the points Commissioner Wilson talked about. "I voted for the county to participate in CAP. I'm specifically interested in CAP, housing, food stamps, and the Health Department. The Health Department, for ex-

ample has a lot of programs to offer low income people." Asked about the County's funding a human resources program, Masters answered, "I don't think that we have discussed that. I'm not fully aware of this. Yes, I'm in favor of it. I would first have to see what is involved."

As far as the idea of funds, Commissioner Masters commented, "It would have to come out of the General Fund Budget of the county. We usually don't have that much money. This year, we have to think of things like raises for county employees, financing engineering for securing water and things like that." He further commented, "Washington County primarily lags behind other counties. We are only allowed a certain rate of tax increase by the state every year. There exists a 25-30 percent growth rate every year in the county. This demands better highways and other needs. Traffic signals alone cost \$28,000 each. We passed a road levy and the people didn't vote for it. We need funds for these."

Alan Ancien

### Local Youth Job Program Will Be Short On Funds, Hope for Summer Dims

The in-school Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) program will probably not be able to hire kids this summer in Washington County because of lack of funds. But some members of Congress, concerned about youth unemployment, may be able to rescue the summer program.

The in-school part of NYC is a program set up to hire kids while they are still in school. The students get proper training and that helps get them a good job later. There have been many types of jobs open to both boys and girls through NYC — everything from maintenance work to writing for the Rural Tribune.

Earlier, cuts were made in the number of hours that a student could work in the program. An in-school NYC student could not work a full ten hours each week as usual. The in-school program will also end early this school year, and its future for next fall is uncertain.

The out-of-school NYC program for high school drop-outs is run by the City of Portland. NYC employees are still able to work and study for a total of thirty six hours each week. There have been no major cuts in the out-of-school program.

Andy Gonzales

### Not an Apology, But Delay Explained

The Rural Tribune was twice-delayed this month by the births of Marlana Kate Jacobs and Amador David Aguirre. Marlana Kate was born on April 7; Amador David was born on April 21. Both arrivals brought paralysis to the staff of the Rural Tribune. The two fathers were noticeably shaken by events of this month and said that they were in no mood to speak to journalists.

Juliano de Tal

## CAP Self-Help Cash Awarded

Five different community proposals have been approved for self-help grants by Washington County Community Action. The five proposals totaled \$2775 and closed out Community Action's program of providing seed money to projects that benefit low-income people and show promise of continuing on their own. But Community Action officials indicate that a similar program could start locally, even though federal funds for Community Action Programs have been cut off.

The five proposals funded at Community Action's April 18th board meeting will help programs that assist senior citizens, youth and migrants. Two senior citizen groups were awarded self-help funds at the April meeting. The Forest Grove Senior Center and the Hillsboro Senior Citizen Center were each awarded \$500 to help provide meals for senior citizens and to maintain multi-service centers for elderly area residents.

A Tigard - Sherwood - Tualatin youth group was granted \$250 to help launch a youth center in that area. According to the group's proposal, the center is needed to provide a place for young people to meet other than "on a street corner in Sherwood." As with the other self-help grants, the group hopes to be able to keep its center open once the funds for its first four months are used up.

Another proposal will provide recreation and entertainment to Washington County's migrants through a Mobile Recreation Van, which will bring books, films and athletic equipment to migrant camps. For the summer the van will use \$1000 in self-help funds. Like the other proposals, the grant from Community Action will allow local advisers to the program

to mobilize a considerable amount of available community resources. In this case, the self-help grant will help bring to the migrants an additional \$5759 worth of equipment and services.

A grant of \$525 will allow Centro Cultural to expand its art program to include pottery classes. The funds will be used to buy a kiln, three pottery wheels, and additional material for teaching ceramics, a craft which is closely associated with the Chicano culture. The sale of objects made by the class will allow Centro to continue to provide the classes after the initial funding period ends.

The five grants complete this year's allocation of self-help funding from Community Action. Earlier this year, \$734 was awarded to fund a youth center and hot-line in Beaverton. Another \$475 was used by Centro Cultural to purchase sewing machines for its sewing classes.

Don Patch, community organizer, points out that the self-help program has been highly successful from the start. "Out of twelve grants (awarded earlier), there's been only one failure. That's an impressive percentage."

Patch is hopeful that local governments will fund a human resources agency. As part of such an agency's co-ordination of local private and governmental sources of funding, it would be able to find funds for the self-help principle.

Patch pointed out that all of the programs awarded grants will be continuing after Community Action funds run out. Volunteers who are interested in helping run these programs can contact the Community Action office in Hillsboro.

P.S.J.



# The Rural Tribune

Washington County is more than it seems. It is the richest county in the state (mean income, \$13,000) and yet one of the poorest (2,000 families clearly below the poverty level). To be poor in Washington County is to be invisible — hidden amid affluence.

The Rural Tribune is attempting to meet the needs of low-income people in Washington County. Published monthly by the Washington County Community Action Organization, it gives voice to the problems of the rural poor. The Rural Tribune is available at no charge — as a federally funded program it can take neither advertising nor paid subscriptions. Along with CAP and OEO, the paper is struggling to survive.

You can help keep the Rural Tribune alive.

Amount of donation \$

Send the Rural Tribune to:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Mail check and coupon to The Rural Tribune, 330 N.E. Lincoln, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

Checks should be made payable to Washington County Community Action Organization.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

(You may also use this coupon to be added to our mailing list — even if you cannot afford to make a donation.)

## Editor Answers Readers' Questions

We think it might be useful to answer some of the questions that readers have posed to us over the last few months. People seem to have a lot of questions — causing us to think that the Rural Tribune is being read before it begins that last long journey to becoming landfill or starting up an evening's fire.

How much does the Rural Tribune cost? The paper, of course, is free to anyone who wants to read it. The whole rural awareness project, including the Rural Tribune, has a budget of about \$11,300 for its first seven months. This has paid newspaper costs, two salaries and a variety of related expenses.



How is the paper funded? The Rural Tribune is funded as a part of a special rural awareness project, run by the Washington County Community Action Program (CAP). The money for the project has come from the Office of Economic Opportunity, the federal war on poverty agency. (OEO was begun by President Johnson and is now being dismantled by President Nixon.) We have received some private donations for the project and we are hoping to find even more. Private money will allow us to keep the project going past the time when federal poverty money dries up sometime during the summer.

How do you distribute the paper? The paper is now mailed to all rural routes and post office boxes in the western part of the county. We had to build our circulation slowly because we did not yet have a non-profit mailing rate. At first, we tried to reach those rural routes where the most low-income people lived.

We have been adding anyone who asks for the paper to our mailing list. Our paper is available at the Food Stamp Office, the Welfare Office, the V.S.I. and Hope Food Cooperatives, and other places in the County.

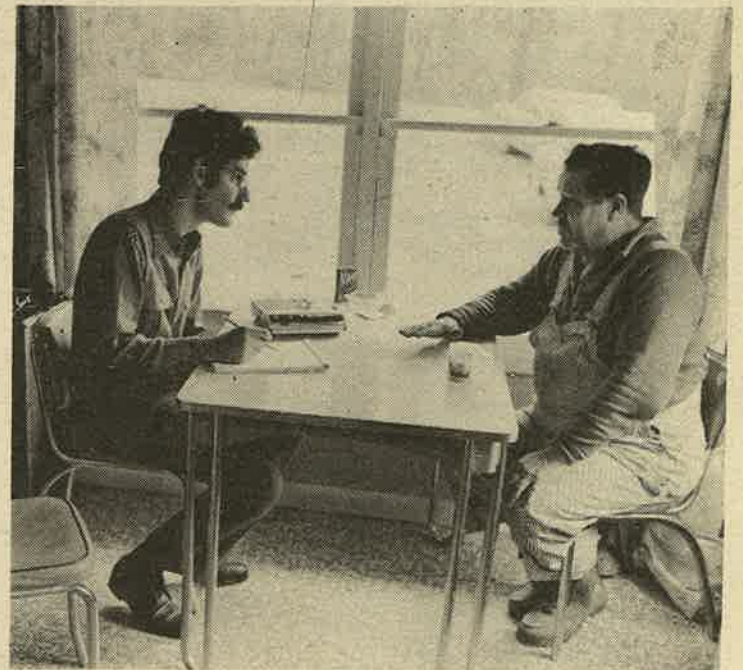
Should the federal government be funding this sort of publication? The purpose of the Rural Tribune is to increase awareness of the problems of poor people. This fits with the purpose of the war on poverty. Before CAP could fund the project, the plans had to be approved by the Regional Office of Economic Opportunity.

The project had to be approved by CAP's local board of directors, too. This board is composed of private individuals, local government people, and representatives of the poor.

There are people who feel that CAP and OEO should not exist at all — that it is wrong to spend federal money to organize and inform low-income people. But people who accept the idea of using federal funds to help the poor in this way, should see the Rural Tribune as a legitimate use of federal money too.

Why don't you publish letters to the editor? We have received only a few letters from our readers. Most of those were unprintable — for one reason or another. We want to see your reactions in writing and we will publish letters as we receive them.

One problem might be that we ask that letters be



signed to guarantee that they are real. In some cases we will withhold names by request.

Is it worth the money? The money does much more than print the Rural Tribune. We have assisted groups in publicizing important projects by contacting newspapers, radio and television, and by setting up news conferences. We have given technical assistance to low-income groups in the community. We expect to begin regular radio programming soon.

Probably our most important work is to support training programs. We have helped to train three university students, a high school

student, two students from the Neighborhood Youth Corps program, a trainee from the Concentrated Employment Program in Portland, and several other volunteers.

Among the people who have worked with us, several are capable of becoming professional journalists. We hope that their experience with us will help them get jobs in that field. Even if our project must close during the summer, we will leave behind several talented and experienced people who know the problems of low-income people and who can write about those problems effectively.

We think that the project is a bargain.

Editor

## People's Paper Needs Reader Response

We need to know what you think of the Rural Tribune. We will publish as many of your comments and ideas as we have space for in our next issue. (If you'd rather not have your opinions printed, indicate that to us — we need your ideas anyway.)

What do you like about the Rural Tribune?

What don't you like?

What stories and features do you think are needed?

Other comments?

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone (if you'd like to volunteer)

Check if you would like to help with the paper.

Send your comments to the Rural Tribune, 330 N.E. Lincoln, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

• CALL FOR HELP •  
Will Return Next Month

Vol. 1, No. 6 of The Rural Tribune. This newsletter is published monthly by the Washington County Community Action Organization and funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity. There is no charge for the paper and there will be no advertising. 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 The Rural Tribune, Community Action, 330 N.E. Lincoln, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

Editor . . . . . Paul S. Jacobs  
Associate Editor . . . . . Amador Aguirre  
Contributors . . . . . Peggy Marostica, Eric Cain, Sharon Allen  
Karen Brentano, Alma Rosa Perez, Alan Ancien,  
Jerralynn Ness, Andy Gonzales

Translators . . . . . Amador Aguirre, Alma Rosa Perez,  
Karen Brentano, Andy Gonzales, Sylvia Gonzales

Typists . . . . . Tina Gonzales, Sharon Gish  
Photographer . . . . . Clyde Keller

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