

The Rural Tribune

Volume 3, Number 8

June, 1975

Share with Women Who Care

Women's Resource Center

"Feminism" is a word not often heard in Washington County. During the last two months more than fifty women have gathered in two informal meetings, and discussed what that word means to them, and what kind of effect it could have on women in Washington County. Although each woman has her own definition of feminism, all are dedicated to translating it into action, action that will benefit women in Washington County, individually and collectively.

For that purpose, the formation of a Women's Resource Center is being planned. On June 25 at 7:00 p.m. a meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room in the basement of Pacific University's Student Center. All women living or working in Washington County are invited to attend.

It is hoped that this Center will be all-inclusive in addressing itself to the needs of women in Washington County. Already a consciousness-raising group has been formed, and plans are being made for a divorce co-op. Other concerns expressed are child care co-ops, career opportunities, survival skills, rape advocacy, adolescent

rights, a women's shelter home, and options for low-income women. This is a flexible and growing list of ideas. Bring your own concerns to the gathering! Child care will be provided and Pacific University is on the TriMet busline.

The woman in Washington County who has special needs has few places to turn to for the kind of support that would help her. Only in Portland are many services being offered to women *by* women, but most women in this county are unable or hesitant to seek them out. Washington County is far behind many areas in creatively and innovatively dealing with concerns women have. When a woman has problems with her family, with her job or with herself, the alternatives do not exist here, outside of institutional frameworks.

Women have had to struggle for equality under the law and within the social structure of our society. In Washington County the invisibility of women remains, in the lack of services available for women which speak to their needs, in the lack of social possibilities, and the lack of cultural and educational activities which are of special interest to women.



Resource Center and increasing women's visibility will be purpose of June 25th gathering.

It is hoped that a Women's Resource Center will be a place where women can share their needs and their ideas, and a place that will offer real resources to them. As a woman, each woman, including you, is a resource. This group believes that all women have something to offer, whether it is ideas, time, problems, support or skills. All women are urged to come to the gathering on June 25.

For further information contact Carolyn Howard, 648-5630 or 357-6151, extension 286; evenings, Barb Hutchison, 636-6415.

Judy Schilling

County Budget Controversy

On May 21, 1975 a public hearing was held on a 2% tax on all utility bills as proposed by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. An amendment to this tax ordinance was added to provide for reimbursement of this proposed tax at the end of each fiscal year for all persons with incomes less than federal poverty guidelines. A majority of the more than 40 persons who spoke at the hearing were against the tax.

Don Ellis (Chairman of the Budget Committee) said, "People don't understand taxes." Mr. Ellis also said that due to inflation and the tremendous population growth rate, the county cannot rely on just the existing property tax with its 6% yearly increase limitation to cover its needs. He said that the utility tax was the most suitable one considered by the budget committee because it would tax everybody minimally and could grow as the county grows.

On May 28 at the second public hearing on the proposed 2% tax on all utility bills, the Board of Commissioners rejected the idea for this means of taxation and asked the County Administrative staff to investigate the possibility of a tax on either the net or gross receipts of businesses. The taxable business transactions would include those of retail and wholesale stores, farmers, and professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.).

At the June 3 Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Virginia Dagg discussed the possible adoption of a new tax and submitted for consideration two proposals which do not include any new taxation. In her discussion of a new tax, Commissioner Dagg asked for 1) a time limitation to be placed on the collection of any new tax; 2) a managerial audit to evaluate the monies spent by each department, and 3) if a tax is adopted, that it should be one which is

equitable to all county citizens. She believes that by sacrificing and "tightening their belts," Washington County could save approximately \$300,000 a year with no loss of services and supplies.

Commissioner Dagg's first proposal calls for a 20% reduction in the salaries of department heads and employees with salaries over \$11,000 according to an equitable sliding scale. The proposal also includes a 10% reduction in the Commissioner's pay. The \$11,000 figure is greater than the wages earned by civil service and union employees, so they won't be affected.

Dagg's second proposal includes a 10% "time off without pay" for all employees. These proposals would make it unnecessary to cut any county staff positions, and would allow for funding of all the service programs recommended by the Human Resources Committee.

At an informal session after this Board meeting, the Commissioners informally approved budget cuts for 1975-76 of about 20%, totalling \$2.2 million.

On June 17 at 7:30 p.m., the Budget hearing will be held on the proposed 1975-76 budget and the proposed amendments. —Jim Long

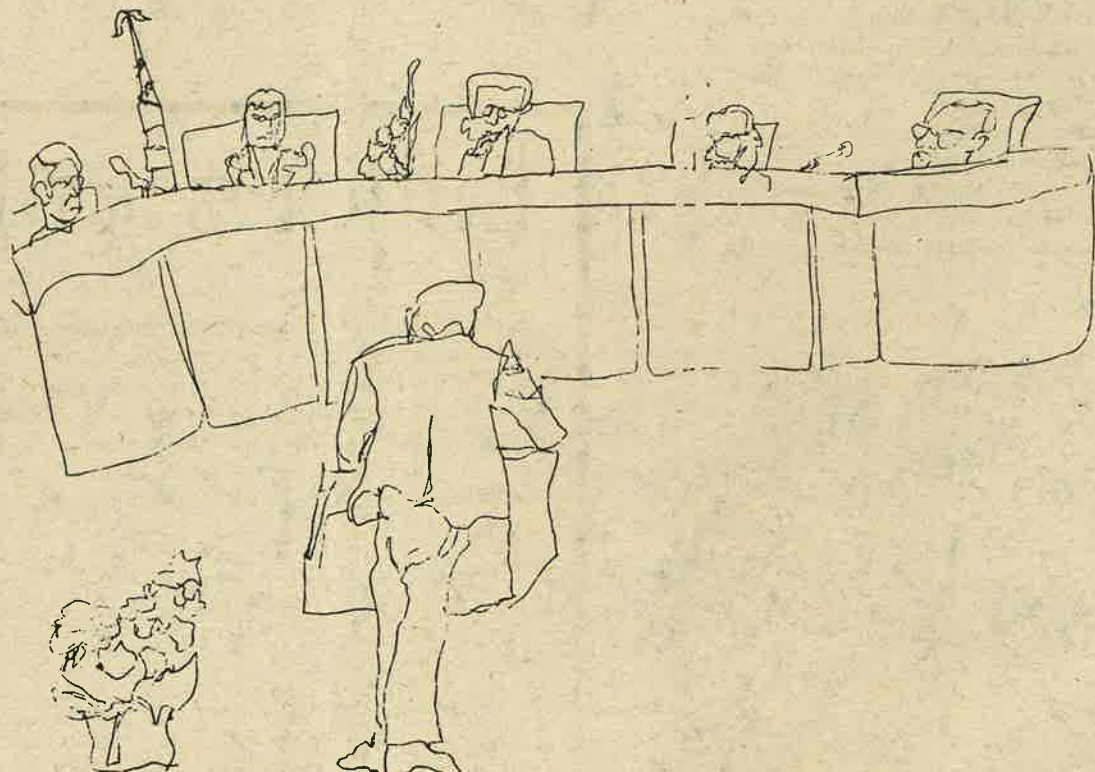
Why a County \$ Crunch?

Why does the current budget crisis exist?

A. INFLATION—Escalating costs caused by the recent inflation (7+) are greater than the 6% limitation on increases in the property tax

base, and hence, the County's purchasing power is diminishing. Also, because of increasing valuation of property in the county and

continued on page 4

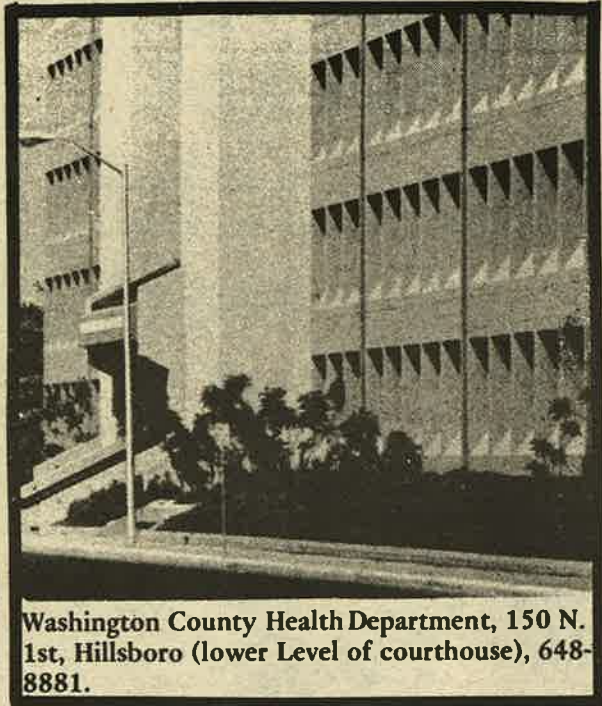


Commissioners Rod Roth, Virginia Dagg, Burt Wilson, Ray Miller, and Richard Heisler listen to testimony of Seth Jackson, Council on Aging, at public hearing. Drawing by Judy Schilling.

THE RURAL TRIBUNE
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Washington County Health Department, 150 N. 1st, Hillsboro (lower Level of courthouse), 648-8881.

SOME HELP FOR MIGRANT HEALTH

The Washington County Health Department released a Migrant Health Program proposed for the summer of 1975 on May 22. Health Department personnel are beginning to implement the program now.

Claudia Johnston (WCCAO Interim Director) and I discussed the program and its possibilities with Harry Kemp, director of Washington County Health Department, on June 4.

The Health Department will operate family clinics 8 a.m. to 12 noon every morning, Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There will be one doctor available at these clinics. No appointment is necessary and the clinics are open to migrants and seasonal farmworkers. The clinic program for Washington County's indigent poor has been discontinued by the Health Department.

The Health Department is depending heavily on the use of referrals to St. Vincent Hospital's new Family Medical Care Unit. One reason for this is the more extensive laboratory and x-ray capabilities at the hospital.

The clinic will basically consist of a screening by a

nurse-practitioner backed up by the department's doctor. The Health Department has a very limited amount of drugs, both in variety and quantity, which can be issued from the clinic. In previous years, Kemp explains, the Health Department had a drug-cost-aid agreement with Oregon Rural Opportunities (formerly Valley Migrant League). ORO has come under criticism from many in Washington County for not spending more of their federal migrant health money in this area.

The long-awaited, often controversial Mobile Health Van may be on the road sometime this summer, according to Kemp. The health Department has the money to finish the refurbishing of the bus. When complete, the Van will contain two examination rooms, a waiting room and laboratory equipment for some testing. It will be a completely self-contained unit with water, sewage and electrical production. At this time there are no county funds for hiring a driver, although most other staffing could be done from within the Health Department.

There are four public health nurses working on the Health Department's Migrant Program. These nurses will visit operating migrant camps, according to Kemp. "There are only twenty camps still open, down from 52 ten years ago," the Department director stated. "In some of those first camps we closed, families were living in things not much bigger than doghouses."

The public health nurses will also do screening in a coordinated program with the IED-run summer schools and day care center. Dental hygienists will also visit these programs to screen for dental problems and give dental hygiene education.



Kemp emphasized that in visiting the children the nurse is often brought into dealing with the entire family, since many conditions are passed between family members. The public health nurses run into everything, "bad teeth, bad feet and lice." Kemp estimates that the county spends several hundred dollars for KWEL, a louse shampoo, a need largely attributable to the crowded, inadequate living conditions.

—Bud Schmidt

—Carolyn Eckel

A Smaller Harvest Every Year

A look at Washington County strawberry fields recently revealed that the potential exists for a good crop this year. The crop will be later than normal because of cool weather earlier in the spring; so the harvest season will probably be quite short. This will be particularly true if the weather is hot during the last two weeks of June and early in July when most of the berries will be picked.

A short, late season could easily lead to difficulty in finding pickers because more would be needed in a shorter period of time. This problem will be compounded by the law banning children under 12 from picking strawberries. Many adults and older children will not pick berries this year because the younger children will not be able to go along.

Fewer strawberries will be harvested this year, and many growers have indicated they aren't planting any more for harvest in 1976. Most of the growers who aren't planting strawberries say they had trouble finding pickers last year and it probably won't be any easier this

season. Not all of the berries were harvested during the 1974 season because of trouble finding pickers.

Another reason given for not planting more strawberries is a poor economic outlook brought on by competing from other producing areas. This situation was aggravated by the high price of sugar recently, which made processing the crop much more expensive. This side of the picture is beginning to look better now. The California crop was reduced significantly by the unfavorable weather during March and April, and the price of sugar has dropped to a much lower level than it has been recently.

Good Buys, But Few Fleas



The Gaston Flea Market is now open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The flea market has expanded, with more than 30 tables inside and outside. Locally grown vegetables and plants are now part of the many items offered as well as a volunteer-run snack bar. Tables may be reserved by calling 985-7168, 648-1141 or 662-3881.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Enclosed please find a donation to contribute to the costs of sending me your paper. I particularly enjoyed the article in this issue (May 1975) regarding welfare recipients testifying in Salem, by Jerralynn Ness. It is very rare that I read any articles on welfare that are at all accurate—this one seemed accurate to me. (I'm an Assistance Worker at SE Welfare in Multnomah County.)

Sincerely,
Gloria Suchow

Senores:

Les estoy mandando este dinero para su periodico la Rural Tribune. Estoy aprendiendo espanol y me gusta es la oportunidad leer el periodico espanol.

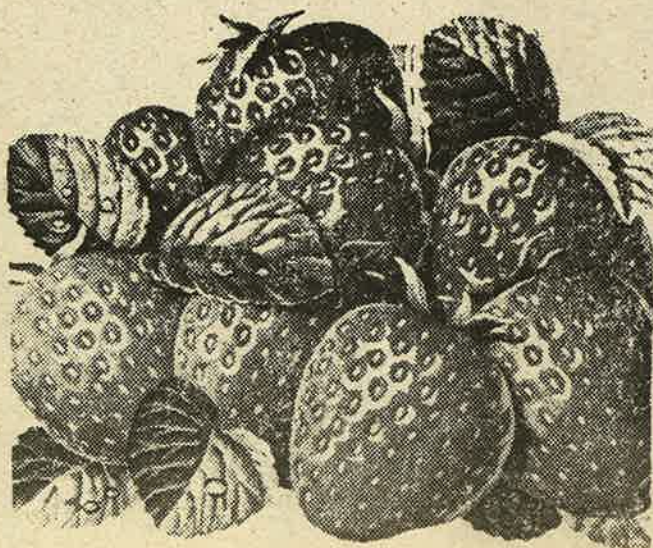
Por que no son las cartas al editor en espanol?

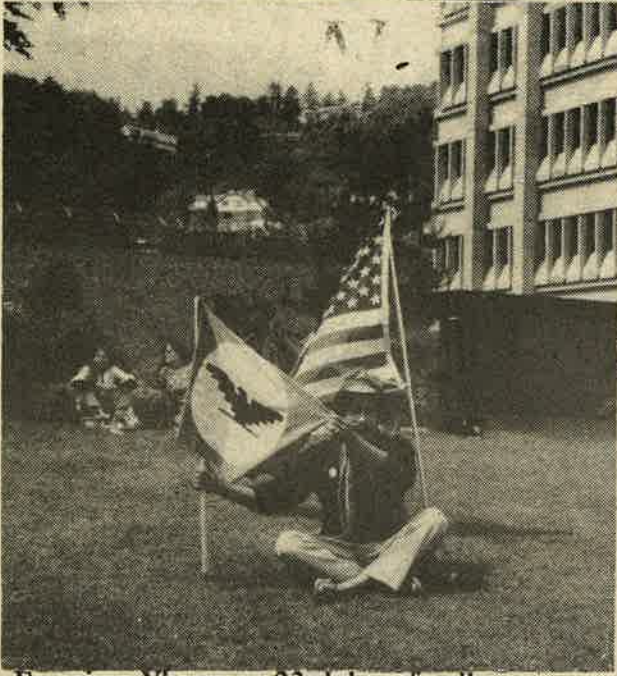
Gracias,
James K. Gardner

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Rural Tribune, effective with the June issue, is moving our release date to mid-month. It is our hope that we will be able to give better coverage of various news stories. We have found that much business, esp. governmental, takes place around the end of the month, which we were not able to give current, complete coverage.

Readers will also note that this is volume 3, number 8. Volume 3, number 7 was released the sixth of June as a special edition, limited to 2000 copies. We used this special edition to address the needs of and services available to the migrants of Washington County. Because of our limited funding, we could not do both a special issue and a regular eight page issue, so we divided into two four page issues.





Francisco Ybarra on 23rd day of strike.

Miembros de la union estudiantil Chicana de Portland State estan boicotando contra el uso de lechuga que no es union y de vinos Gallo en la cafeteria y a las reuniones del colegio.

Uno de los Chicanos que pertenece a la union esta en huelga de no comer hasta que una decision sea hecha, por la administracion. La union Chicana se ha juntado cuatro veces con el presidente del colegio, Joseph Blumel tratando de encontrar al una solucion del problema. Hasta ahorita el presidente dijo que el iba a comenzar un programa para tener lechuga de union y de la que no es union para que la gente y estudiantes escojan: la que ellos quieran. Y a hace dos semanas que paso esto y ningun programa se ha hecho de este tipo.

PSU Hunger Strike

Francisco Ybarra, el Chicano que ya tiene veinte y tres dias en huelga de no comer, ha perdido mas de veinte libras. El dice que la va a continuar hasta que no se haga justicia para los trabajadores. La union estudiantil Chicano tienen un peticion de 2,000 firmas, y casi todos son estudiantes de ahi en el colegio de Portland State ensenando su soporte para los trabajadores de labor.

Ybarra ha sido arestado tres veces de estar ilegalmente traspasando en la cafeteria esta esperando corte por ese cargo. El dice que la union estudiantil Chicana ha sido atormentada rapetidamente por el (CSSO) hombres para seguridad y proteccion del colegio.

"Ellos nos han robado las banderas de los trabajadores unidos de labor que estaban afuera de las carpas: ellos nos han quitado y tumbado los senas que tenianos: y me han arestado." Ybarra dijo. "Pero nosotros seguiremos continuando con la huelga."

Segun Ybarra, la union estudiantil Chicana esta tratando de quitar la lechuga (scab) que no es de la union de Chavez totalmente.

Members of the Portland State Chicano Student Union are boycotting against the use of scab lettuce and Gallo Wines in the cafeterias and at campus gatherings.

One of the Chicanos from the student union is on a hunger-strike until a decision is made by the administration. The union has met with the college president four times trying to resolve the problem. Until now, the president has said he would start a program to have non United Farm Workers lettuce and union lettuce so that the people can decide which one they want. Almost two weeks have passes and no such program has been implemented.

Francisco Ybarra, the Chicano on his 23rd day of a hunger strike, has lost over 20 pounds. He says he will continue until there is justice for the farmworkers. The Chicano Student Union has a petition of 2,000 signatures, mostly students at the college showing their support for the farmworkers and the strike.

Ybarra has been arrested three times had charged with criminal trespassing. Two of these have been dismissed. The third is pending in court. He says the Chicano Student Union has been harassed repeatedly by the (CSSO) Campus Safety and Security.

"They have stolen the United Farm Worker's flags that surrounded the tents: they have torn down our signs: and they have arrested me." Ybarra said. "But we will continue the strike."

According to Ybarra, the Chicano Student Union is aiming for the removal of scab lettuce totally.

-Alma Rosa Perez

i Viva la Huelga! Consumer Corner

If any readers are interested in buying good quality meat and at good prices, keep on reading. Last week I went out to the Carlton Meat Packing Company and talked with the manager, John Duyn. It is a little known fact that they have a small retail store. Mr. Duyn said that most of the items were for his employees but other folks were welcome to shop there. Food stamps are readily accepted.

The prices are generally lower than most local supermarkets, and the quality of the meat is excellent. The hamburger runs about 75¢ per lb. and is very lean, so much so that many times some fat must be added when cooking.

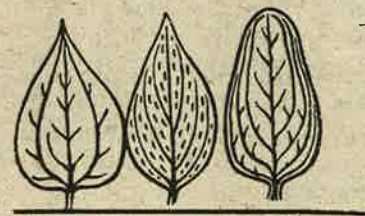
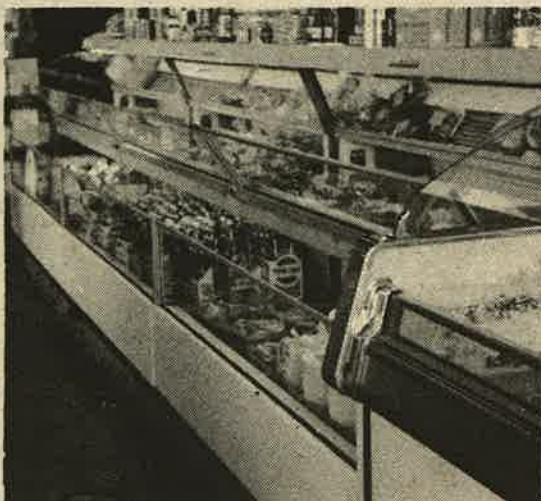
To get to the store, take Highway 47 to Carlton and turn right on Meadow Lake/Nestucca road to Westside road. From here you can see the place on the left.

The hours of the store are from 8-5 Monday through Friday and 8-12 on Saturday.

Carlton Packing Company has been in business for the past 17 years, serving the area with low-cost, quality meats.

It may be a distance to drive from where you are, but it is a pleasant drive, and well worth the time.

-James Hynson



Farmers Donate Otherwise Wasted Food

For the third consecutive year, "food free for the picking" will be offered to county residents through Community Action's Gleaning Project. Formerly called the Canning Project, that name has been changed to reflect the real activity of the program—gleaning fruit and vegetables left in food growers' fields after the commercial harvest.

Last year nearly \$135,000 worth of produce was donated to the program by 76 local food growers. An average family of five gleaned over \$800 worth of produce, much of which was canned to provide food over the winter. This meant tons of food which would otherwise go to waste were used to feed people in the county, including many elderly and handicapped people. Last year 207 households, totalling 671 persons, participated in the project. Each of these families also picked for someone unable to pick for themselves, and in most cases, delivered the produce to them.

This year's project is now taking applications from individuals who would like to participate in the Gleaning Project. The only cost is the time and labor involved in picking.

Monika Belcher, director of the project, commented, "This successful effort is unique and it is cooperative. It is a perfect example of people working together to help each other. The farmers' generosity in donating the fruits and vegetables was greatly appreciated by those who benefited from it."

Persons who wish to sign up for the project and persons having extra produce to donate should call Monika at 648-8381 or Community Action at 648-6646.

-Judy Schilling



Head Start open house and lease-signing party was held at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on May 14th.

Welfare Advisor

If you have a question about Welfare, Food Stamps, SSI, Social Security or OSIP that you would like to see answered in this column, send it to the Welfare Advisor, c/o The Rural Tribune, 546 E. Baseline, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123. We will try to answer all requests for information unless the high volume of mail prevents us from doing so.

Q. I'm on ADC and just received my 1974 Federal Income Tax rebate. My caseworker says that they're going to give me less money next month because of it. Can they do that? Some of my friends got rebates and they weren't deducted from their grants.

A. Whether or not your 1974 Income Tax Rebate counts as income in determining the amount of your Welfare Grant depends on the type of assistance you are receiving. Tax rebates are NOT counted as income if you are receiving ADC (Aid to Dependent Children), payments which are matched by the Federal Government (Matchable ADC, OSIP or OSIP/SSI). If, however, you are receiving non-matchable ADC or General Assistance, your rebate WILL be counted as income.

If you don't know whether or not you are receiving matched or non-matched ADC, ask your caseworker. In general if there is a husband and/or father in the household who is receiving Unemployment Compensation, the grant is non-matchable. If there is a father in the household who is not receiving Unemployment Compensation, and who has worked a certain amount prior to his application for ADC, the grant will probably be matchable. If there are children in the grant who are receiving ADC for any reason other than the father's unemployment, then the grant will always be matchable.

In order to continue the medical care, no non-matchable ADC case will be closed as a result of the rebate. The rebate also will not affect your food stamp certification. The special \$50 payments made to recipients of SSI, Social Security and Railroad Retirement will not be counted at all in determining eligibility or amount of grant from Welfare.

Source: PWD Executive Bulletin 75-14; PWD Manual 11-11-J, (2) (3)

-Emily Chalmers



Ground being broken at WCCAO Shelter Home for community garden. Hillsboro Implement donated tractor for tilling.

Family Clinic Opens

ALL ARE WELCOME at the new family health clinic now open at St. Vincent Hospital in Beaverton. The Family Medical Care Unit is open seven days a week from 10 am to 10 pm. St. Vincent Hospital is located north of Highway 26 (Sunset) on SW Barnes road. The hospital administration hopes to make it a 24 hour clinic in the near future.

The new unit makes a determination of charge according to the patients ability to pay. Those unable to pay will be treated on a no-fee basis. This will not affect the quality or thoroughness of a patient's care, according to hospital administrators. The unit is directed toward those who do not have a regular physician or who cannot find care elsewhere on holidays, weekends or evenings. The FMC Unit is located to the right of the information desk as one enters the main doors on the south of the building, has the advantage of a complete laboratory and radiology unit in the hospital.

The hospital administration is making plans now to provide translation service for Spanish-speaking persons. Also being planned is an outreach program to serve the needs of Washington county migrant families. This program will include a system of regular transportation from the various labor camps and other locations to the Family Medical Care Unit and will coordinate with the migrant day schools operating during the summer in Washington. It is hoped that an on-going health program can be developed that will be able to serve the needs of migrant families on a year to year basis. This is especially important for proper preventative health care for children, when record keeping is vital. St. Vincent has that record keeping ability.

Bud Schmidt



continued from page 1
MORE ON BUDGET CRISIS

Revenue Issues

the rapid population growth (6-8% yearly), the tax based levy is actually decreasing since it is spread out amongst more people.

B. REVENUE SHARING—Washington County will be receiving \$136,000 less than was anticipated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Program. This decrease in revenue is the result of the Federal government's fairly complicated "Revenue Sharing Formula." The "revenue sharing formula" is based on three factors: population per capita, personal income, and the tax effort. Because the population is increasing at a rate of 6 to 8% yearly and the average personal income is quite high (seventh highest of counties in Oregon), while the tax effort is very low (seventh lowest of counties in Oregon), the resulting amount of revenue sharing monies given to the county is decreasing.

This 'revenue sharing formula,' according to County Administrative Officer Dan Potter, "rewards the capacity to extract money from people." Mr. Potter says, "If you (the county) are not helping yourself, the federal government isn't going to help either."

C. STATE MANDATES—Another reason for the budgetary problems, according to Finance and Administration Director Fred Leutwyler, is that "Washington County is a creature of the state." There are seven services which the 1973 Legislature mandated all counties to provide, yet the state did not allocate any monies to support these new services. This additional cost to the County is \$231,772.

Washington County serves as collector of all taxes levied specifically on property owners, and other revenues (fines, licenses, permits, current services, etc.) Washington County then distributes these revenues to the taxing districts in diagram 1. There are 78 special service districts which provide fire, water, sanitary, lighting, and recreation services to residents of each of the specific 78 tax levy districts. Proposed increases in these taxes must have the support of voters affected by the increases. Washington County departments retained only 5.08% of the tax levied in this present 1974-75 fiscal year.

Washington County operates with a tax levy base

Vol. 3, No. 8 of 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.

which was adopted in 1916 and has never been changed or amended. There is a 6 percent limitation on increases from one year to the next. This 6% increase is automatic if the Commissioners agree to impose it. There were some years in the not-so-recent past history that the Commissioners did not take this opportunity to raise the tax levy. In the last seven years however, there have been numerous attempts to raise taxes above the 6% limitation, but the voters have never approved the increases.

Two serial tax levies also exist to raise revenue for special needs which have arisen. The Road Serial levy is in its last year and the Law Enforcement Serial Levy has many years remaining. The Law Enforcement Serial Levy does not grow or diminish except by approval of the voters.

Unlike most other counties in the state, Washington County has very little land covered by the Oregon and California Land Grant Act. The Oregon and California Land Grant Act provides revenues to 16 counties in the state which sold land to the Federal Government for the construction of Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. These tracks were not constructed and these counties are receiving compensation for timber resources which are taken from the land. Also, no lands are available for National Forest Revenue. Only those counties which receive substantial revenues from either of these Federal Land Revenues have a property tax base less than Washington County.

—Jim Long

WASHINGTON COUNTY IN COMPARISON WITH THE OTHER 35 COUNTIES IN OREGON			
Highest Rank = 1 (top in the state)	INFORMATION FROM		
Lowest Rank = 36 (lowest in the state)	FISCAL YEAR 1973-74		
POPULATION	182,000		RANK 4
TOTAL PER CAPITA INCOME	\$5,177		7
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$3,377,915.49		4
PROPERTY TAX RATE	\$1.51		25
I. REVENUE FROM OWN SOURCES			
Tax Revenue	\$17.62	PER CAPITA	RANK 29
Local Non-Tax Revenue (licenses, service charges, fines, etc.)	\$10.62		33
SUB-TOTAL:			
Revenue from own sources	\$28.26		34
II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE			
Federal Revenue			
General Revenue Sharing	3.71		29
Federal Land Revenue Sharing	1.64		34
Grants-in-Aid	2.25		13
State Revenue	15.44		36
Inter-Local Revenue	.94		11
SUB-TOTAL:			
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$23.97		35
TOTAL REVENUE FROM ALL SOURCES \$52.24			
			35

* This means that the revenue coming to Washington County departments was \$52.24 per person (1973-74); this is the lowest rate of all the counties in the state.

Washington County Revenue

Over five months ago it became apparent that inflation was going to hurt the budget badly. The County Budget Committee studied the various methods of taxation (property, income, sales, utility and business taxes, etc.). This Budget Committee recommended the 2% tax on utility bills since it has the capacity to grow with the people and problems of the County. Committee Chairman Don Ellis says that, "Taxes are controlled by the people." And he believes it is important to communicate to residents and voters the condition County government is in presently, and both the workings and benefits of the various means of taxations.

Utility Tax—Though the once proposed utility tax would grow with the needs of the county and its population, many people spoke against it at the public hearing. This utility tax has been rejected by the Board of Commissioners.

Net or Gross Business Receipts Tax—This tax would effect all sales of goods or services in Washington County. The amount of taxation might be 1½% of all gross receipts or .1% of all net receipts.

Both the City of Portland and Multnomah County have in operation a .1% tax on all net receipts from business.

If approved and adopted, such a tax ordinance is expected to be effective January 1, 1976.

The proposed \$2.2 million budget cuts would eliminate 33.5 positions in County government with the possibility that another 14 positions may be left vacant in the Public Works Department for this next year beginning July 1. All these positions are vacant now, so no staff persons would need to be laid off. These staff positions have been vacated in the last four months, and in

expectation of the lack of funds, the administration has not hired new personnel. County departments which will be effected most by these cuts in staff are:

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION	6 POSITIONS
HEALTH	5.5 POSITIONS
PLANNING	5 POSITIONS
DISTRICT COURT	4 POSITIONS
PUBLIC WORKS	14 POSITIONS

Final determination of the cuts from the Public Works Department depends upon current salary negotiations and legislative actions in Salem.

According to Mr. Potter, the effect of these cuts will be "a decrease in speed" for some County operations. According to Don Mason, Director of Assessment and Taxation, his department had the heaviest workload per staff of a comparable departments in similar counties in the state.

The major portion of the budget cut is \$1½ million from the Contingency Fund. The Contingency Fund, established by law to cover those things (disaster, etc.) that cannot be anticipated or expected, is now set at \$17,000 for next year. The Budget Committee had recommended that \$1,552,412 be in this fund.

Employees of the Public Safety Department will receive a 6% raise plus dental expenses and 2% more, effective January 1, 1976, as per a two year agreement. Employees of Public Works, Unified Sewerage Agency, and the nurses are unionized, and bargaining for these salaries is still going on. Commissioner Dagg's suggestion for a managerial audit of all departments has merit and would help ensure that county residents are getting best use of their tax money.

Jim Long

The Advocate Program

Ongoing Programs

The Advocates Program has set up, coordinated and administered a range of ongoing programs in the community, as well as providing direct services to clients. These programs include the Volunteer Coordinating Center in Forest Grove, the Home Maintenance Program, action groups in the consumer, tenant, and education fields, as well as the following projects:

The Emergency Shelter Home emerged from the tremendous number of requests for emergency, temporary housing which the Advocates received. The best that a person who found him/herself without a home could hope for was a night in a motel paid for by CAO, FISH or Holy Trinity. This type of emergency relief placed a strain on the finances of the social service agencies and usually made the clients unavailable for further, follow-up help. Then, in July of 1974, the Manpower Program agreed to use the Advocates to provide support services for their clients. Many of the Manpower referrals were without housing, and an emergency shelter home was considered a top priority. Through co-operation between WCCAO and Manpower dollars became available, so that The Shelter Home, located at 672 E. Washington St. in Hillsboro, could begin operating. A great deal of volunteer labor was used to make the house liveable. The Home is staffed by volunteers, Advocates and a senior citizen from the Green Thumb Project.

The Translators Bureau was originally set up with its own director to establish competent, independent translation services for Spanish-speaking people in such agencies in the County as welfare, the courts and police departments. Originally, the plan was to set up contracts with these agencies to pay for translation services, but the agencies by and large refused to use their funds to provide for translation. Therefore, the Translators Bureau is presently being supervised by Sam Perez, the Employment Advocate, and continues to offer its services and to seek the funds to operate independently.

The Flea Market is open on Sundays from 9:00 to 6:00 and Mondays from 10:00 to 7:00 at the Gaston Community Center. It is a place where people can sell and buy useful, new and used items. In order to have a table and sell your goods, all that is necessary is to pay a \$2.00 fee. Tables are provided, and there is no admission charge for shoppers.

The Self-Help Grant Program provides small amounts of money to establish community-based enterprises which serve the people. Such groups as the Centro Cultural, North Plains Seniors and Grandma's Corner have used this program to get their projects started.



Oregon Historical Society

Emergency Food. OEO has given a \$10,000 grant through Community Action to expand and coordinate efforts of local helping agencies to distribute bulk protein foods at no cost to recipients. The Advocates will help to establish the network of distribution and referral which will match the people with their emergency food needs.

Emergency Loans. Currently, \$450 is being deposited in the Loan Fund monthly to help with the small emergencies which people have when they have no other resources to which to turn. These loans often go to pay utilities, place a deposit on an apartment, purchase food, gas, medicine, car repairs and so on. From July, 1974, to December, 1974, 71 loans were made for a total amount of \$1,622, or an average of about \$23 per loan. Thirty two loans have been repaid during that time period for an amount totalling \$766.



Judy Schilling

Emergency Services also include:

Winterization. Under a \$4,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) more than 250 homes in the Washington County area have been provided with plastic storm windows and wrapped pipes to help conserve energy in the winter months. The money for this service did not come to the CAO until January 15 (somewhat late for a project of this nature), but homes have been winterized at a rate of 4.5 homes per day at no cost to the clients.

Emergency fuel. \$1,000 was used to provide up to \$40 per household in grants to low-income people to help meet the costs of fuel during the winter. The program

was hoped to be a cooperative effort amongst Washington County helping agencies, but the CAO alone came through with large-scale financial support. Beaverton FISH supported the program with \$200.

Who are the Advocates?

The Advocate Program provides trained people to help the poverty community in a wide variety of ways, including putting clients in touch with services they need. During the past year, the program has expanded from a director and three VISTAs to a director, two staff people and ten VISTAs.

The Welfare Advocate, Mary Lou Rivera, and the Discrimination Advocate-Equal Opportunity Officer, Sam Perez, are employed and paid directly by Community Action. The program is directed by Jerralynn Ness.

The ten VISTAs include two Parent Co-ordinators who work with Head Start parents and the following group of Advocates:

Housing Advocate, Judy Schilling. Judy has worked in the area of resolving landlord-tenant disputes. Among other approaches, she was partially responsible for the organization of a tenants' rights group in a large, local trailer park. Judy also worked as the coordinator of the Home Maintenance Program for the Agency on Aging which provided home repairs for senior citizens and disabled persons. She has served as the coordinator of the Emergency Shelter Home (see article below), and supervised the Winterization and Emergency Fuel Programs.

Health Advocate, Michael Pollard. Michael has served as the Head Start Health Coordinator, making sure that the Head Start parents, who are also Community Action clients, take advantage of the wide range of health services which are offered to them and their children. Michael has organized the Medichk Coalition which is a group of concerned citizens in Washington and Multnomah Counties who are trying to increase participation in the Medichk Program—the first preventive medicine program ever offered by the federal gov-

ernment. And he has continued CAO's efforts to set up a mobile health van to better meet the health needs of the rural poor.

Consumer Protection Advocate, James Hynson. James has set up the Consumer Awareness Group which is a group of low income consumers which has come together in order to become more knowledgeable about their rights and about how to manage their finances. He also handles consumer complaints which come through the CAO office and he has worked on setting up the Community Flea Market.

Alternative Education Advocate, Dee Elia. Dee has established a group of parents who feel that their needs are not being met by the local school systems, has made an inventory of existing education resources, and works as a general advocate helping with a wide range of problems.

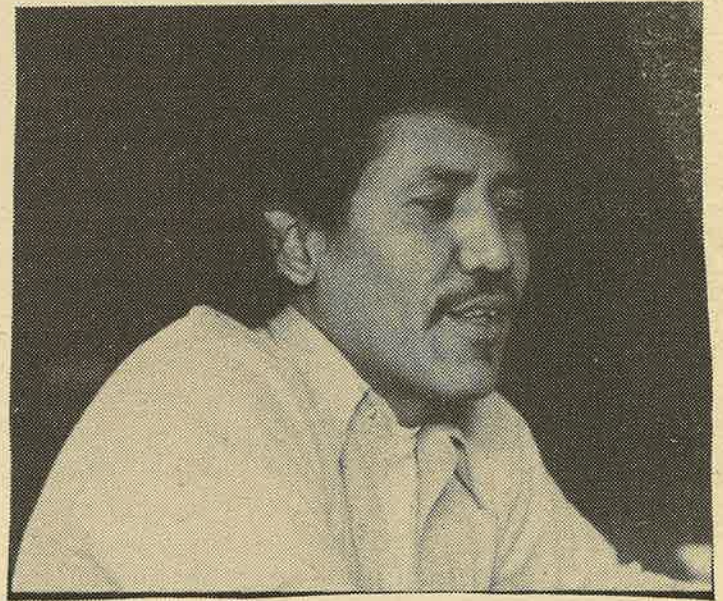
Volunteer Coordinator, Beverly Ness. Beverly helped to set up the Forest Grove Volunteer Coordinating center and has compiled a monthly community calendar. She worked with James Hynson to set up the flea market.

Transportation Organizer, Smitty Smith. Smitty has provided a coordination service for transportation in the rural areas of the County, especially for senior citizens. Presently, he is involved with resource mobilizing for the various senior centers and for the Shelter Home.

Youth Advocate, Mary Hennessey. Mary works in the Youth Services Center in Forest Grove coordinating the Big Brother-Big Sister Program and setting up rap groups.

Youth Organizer, Donna Hoak. Donna is organizing the Youth Drop-in Center Tualatin. She has presently organized a group of local young people to work on setting up the center.

DHM



Sam Perez,

The Welfare Advocate

Mary Lou Rivera is Community Action's Welfare Advocate. People who are seeking welfare or are on a grant and who are having a problem with the welfare office come to see Mary Lou. She also deals with problems in the area of food stamps.

Mary Lou is seeing clients at the rate of about 50 per month, and many of her clients speak only Spanish. The problem of the welfare office not providing adequate translation services for Spanish-speaking people is particularly acute during the summer months when the area experiences the annual migrant influx. "The problem of untrained and sometimes biased people from inside the welfare office doing all the translation still exists," says Mary Lou. "People can feel very threatened when they are not sure

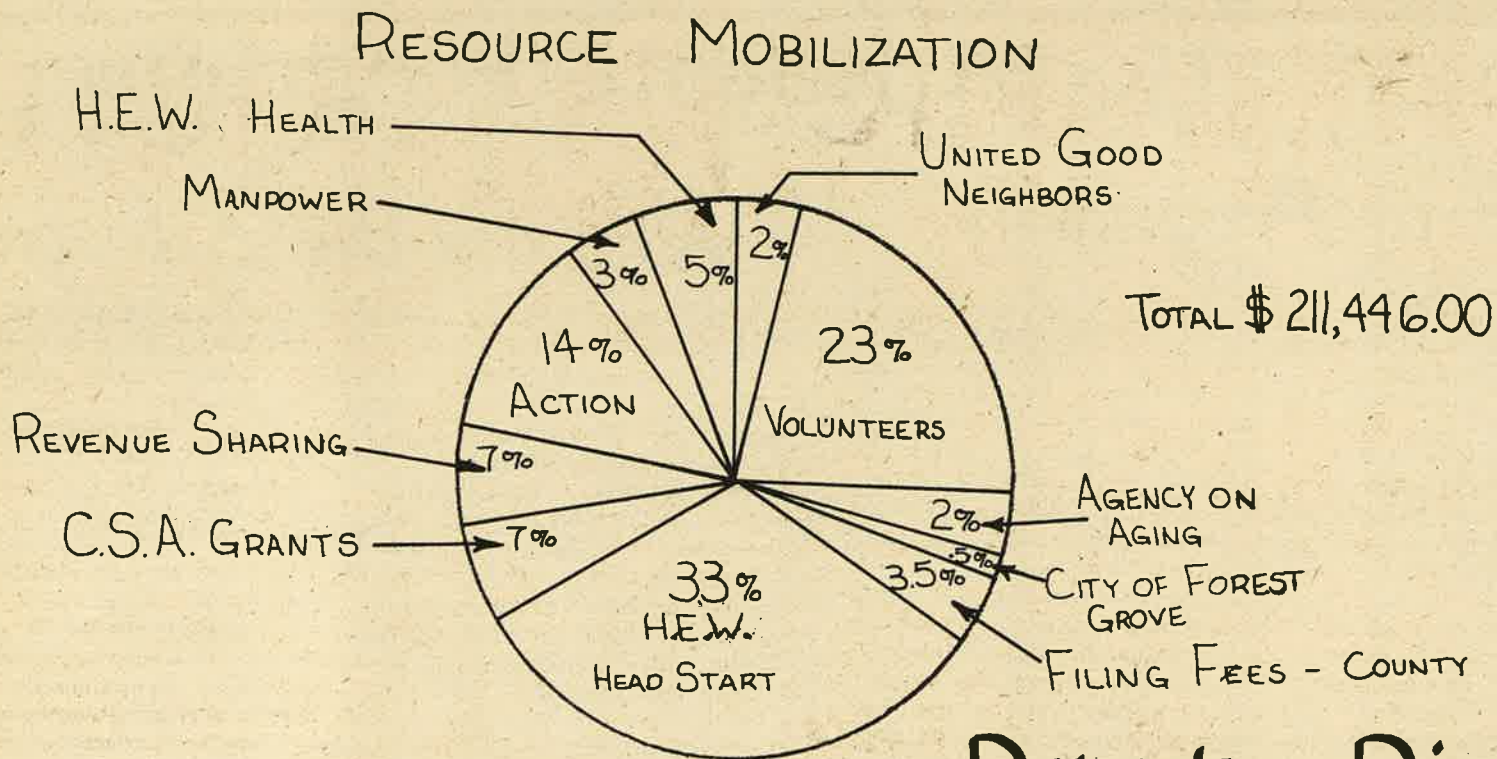
that they are communicating with these people who are deciding how much money they will get."

During the winter, Mary Lou has found that the main problem which confronts welfare recipients is the inability of their grant to cover more than rent and food. Fuel costs are especially hard for a welfare client to meet. "Welfare doesn't give any increase in their grants to meet fuel costs during the months from November on. So the case workers just tell their clients to call Community Action. All of these fuel problems are just dumped on to us. I don't know what they expect us to do. We don't have the money to pay everybody at welfare's fuel bills."

As inflation has forced up all prices, Mary Lou has also seen a leap in the num-

ber of people who simply cannot afford food or who do not have enough money to buy food stamps. Mary Lou says, "I go over a person's grant very carefully, and if they do not seem to be getting as much as they are eligible for, I will go with them to welfare. And if their grant is correct, we can work on their budget. Also we might go to welfare for volunteer aid. But I always have to ask for that kind of help. The welfare people never tell the clients that they might get volunteer help."

"One problem that I have is that if I go over to the welfare office and people come looking for me at Community Action, they're likely to follow me to welfare. Maybe what I need is to have my desk in the welfare office, but I don't think that the welfare workers would like that very much."



Canning Project

The Cooperative Canning Project, operating on a small budget supplied by Community Action, completed their second harvest season of service to the elderly, disabled, and low-income people of the county in 1974.

People who qualified as elderly or low-income worked with the staff of the project in gleaning left-over crops from farms in the county. These crops were donated by local farmers and gardeners.

Able-bodied people participating in the project gathered food both for themselves and also for disabled people who were unable to come into the fields.

740 people took part in the harvesting. Sixteen growers donated several tons of pears, tomatoes, beans, prunes and corn. Various berries were also donated in large quantities. This was food that would have otherwise gone to waste, but, instead, went to feed the low-income, elderly and disabled.

Many participants, particularly the elderly, said that they would not have been able to can at all this year if the Canning Project did not exist.

Monika Belcher has headed the project over the past two years and overseen its speedy growth.



Rural Awareness

The Rural Awareness Project (RAP) plays the threefold role of advocate, communications media, and training-ground.

The project produces the *Rural Tribune*, an eight-page, monthly, bilingual newsletter with a press run of 10,000 copies. It is distributed by a bulk mailing to all rural route box holders in the county, and to all individuals and groups which request it. Copies are also made available at such places as the welfare, employment and county offices.

RAP also produces a half-hour radio show on KUIK in Hillsboro and a half hour show on KBPS in Portland. Both programs are in Spanish.

In its role as advocate, the RAP staff investigates problems of interest to the rural poor and, by using the *Tribune*, tries to inform the poverty community and the general public about them.

A second major focus of RAP is the communication of programs and services which can be of use to the poverty and minority communities. With the *Tribune* (the only bilingual print media in the county) and the radio programs, RAP can reach Spanish-speaking people.

Many times programs of service to the poor depend on grass root citizen participation. RAP uses its own media and its contacts in the local and Portland press to give all-important credit to these groups.

As a training resource, RAP currently has two low-income staff trainees and one Youth Manpower trainee. Although placement of these people as reporters in local or metropolitan media is not an especially realistic goal, communication skills acquired in the RAP program serve to help individuals become more effective in their struggle for personal advancement and social justice.

RAP tries to build and maintain lines of communication within the poverty and minority communities and between these communities and society at large. Most communications media focus on issues of interest to the majority of middle income citizens; and media is generally controlled by people with no direct commitment to service to the poor. In contrast to this, RAP tries to see that poor and minority people have a way to make their voices heard.

Deputy Director

Since July of 1974, Claudia Johnston has been the Deputy Director of Community Action and the Director of Head Start.

Claudia has tried to divide her time between her two jobs, and, in fact, takes the greatest pleasure in the way in which she has been able to bring together the Community Action and Head Start programs. Most of the Head Start families have become clients of the CAO receiving various services from the Advocates. And the staff members from the two programs have been brought together and developed a feeling for the common problems which they are confronting.

In her role as CAO Deputy Director Claudia has developed a supervisory team which works to coordinate the agency's various programs, has put together a schedule of all-staff meetings for CAO and Head Start staff, has provided support and advice for the Translator's Bureau, has had the job of completing the agency's personnel policy, serves on the Manpower Board, has assisted in simplifying the procedures of the agency, and acts as the supervisor of the heads of the various CAO programs.

Claudia feels that, as well as contributing to the agency, she has learned a great deal as well. She sees Community Action as having a unique role in the community. On one hand the agency serves as an advocate for and organizer of the poor. On the other hand CAO functions as one agency among several social service agencies in the County. Claudia feels herself pulled in both directions by her job. She enjoys working with funds, figures, grants and proposals, the administrative side of the agency. But she also enjoys the face-to-face contact with people which the advocacy side of CAO provides.

In terms of the emergency, direct services which Community Action has



Claudia Johnston

increasingly been asked to set up and administer (such as the shelter home, and the winterization, food and fuel programs), Claudia would like to see these services and resources spun off to coordinated, county-wide groups which CAO would help to set up and participate in. A group like the now-forming NEEDS Council could become an independent, self-regulating advisory board for emergency funds.

If such groups as Claudia envisions did form, the energy of the Advocates could be freed from actually running emergency relief programs. Instead, they could make use of and help to mobilize such programs. Thus, more time would be freed for actually organizing to combat the problems which created the emergency need in the first place.

As economic hard times become worse, Claudia sees more and more emergency program funds coming into the county. She believes that either the energy of the staff can be used to run the programs, or it can be used to develop county-wide delivery systems which would coordinate the efforts of all local helping agencies.

Legal Services

Legal Services, with a staff of two attorneys, a legal assistant, and a secretary, provides advice and representation in court for low-income people. Legal Services can take civil, not criminal, cases in which no attorneys' fees are awarded in the verdict. About 40% of the operating costs of Legal Services is covered by Community Action funds.

From February, 1974, to February, 1975, Legal Services saw approximately 1,000 clients. 50% of their cases were in the area of domestic relations, and the categories of consumer and landlord-tenant problems also occupied much of their energy.

Robert Stalker, Director of Washington County Legal Services, emphasizes half of Legal Services' clients make less than \$300 per month. Their clients include approximately twice as many women as men.

Stalker reports that in the three months between Oct. 1 and Jan. 1 Legal Aid accepted 220 new clients.

During this same three month period, 306 calls were referred to other attorneys and agencies by Legal Services. Such referrals often mean contacting lawyers in private practice and persuading them to accept non-paying or deferred payment cases.

At present, due to the heavy case load, there is a two week minimum waiting period for non-emergency cases. The Legal Services office is presently accepting no more divorce cases, as it is far behind in handling its backlog in domestic relations and as Counsellor Stalker puts it, "We have had to assign a low priority to divorces just to get the time to work on other cases."

"Deshojand' la Margarita" Me Quiere, No Me Quiere

El Colegio Cesar Chavez no es nuevo en la escena educativa en el estado de Oregon, el Colegio Cesar Chavez proporcionaba titulos de Bachiller en 1973. Estos titulos heran para que los nuevos maestros recibieran la educacion bilingue y bicultural para trabajar con comunidades donde hay varios mexicanos.

En aquel entonces, todo hera sueno e iluciones. Seunos de que los Chicanos tendrian una institucion por si mismos y las filosofias variaban, con el entendimiento comun de que para todos habria educacion. Un sentido de orgullo embriagaba a los Chicanos esperanzados en su Colegio, varios sonaban con sinceridad en la honestidad de tal sueno, muchos comian, hablaban y oraban por el Colegio. El plan se puso en marcha y varios esque educadores fueron recrutados del sur de los Estados Unidos, posiblemente para demostrarle al sistema educativo de Oregon, que cuando se da una a la busqueda de talento (?) se encuentra. Varios de estos, esque educadores, tienen titulos, desde doctorados, maestrias y flamantes titulos de bachiller. Condecoraban las credenciales de tales maestros. No comentemos acerca de las paredes, en sus oficinas donde se encontraban cartelones con toda clase de filosofias acerca de que bonito es ser "de color cafe" y cuanto vamos a hacer por la raza. Treinta y tres educadores se dieron a la tarea de sostener al Colegio contra viento y marea.

Al poco tiempo la facultad se vio con la amarga experiencia de la realidad y el Colegio perdio su acreditacion, perdiendo asi uno de los mas importantes medios de sostenimiento *ayuda financiera federal*. 80.000 Dls fueron prometidos al colegio, pero nunca llegaron a su destino varios no al perder su acreditacion. Actualmente correspondencia con oficiales de la educacion se ha estado entablado, no se ha llegado a ningun acuerdo segun las palabras del Sr. Jose Garcia, jefe de la mesa directiva del Colegio; "Lo ultimo que he sabido es que la decision de si el Colegio es elgible para acreditacion, no se hara hasta en el mes de Mayo de este ano." Esto ha prolongado la agonía de la presente administracion, que se han visto forzados a reducir la facultad poco a poco y de 33 quedaron ocho, de los ocho nada mas quedan cuatro.



Esta actitud hacia el colegio por oficiales educativos, la describe Celedonio (Sonny) Montes, uno de los bataladores incansables del colegio como "Asombrosa." En reciente conversacion mecionaba que colegios para Negros recibieron el ano pasado 257 millones de dolares y que a pesar que el Colegio ha podido sentar base en dos anos de lucha, no ha recibido ni un centavo. Parece ser que los encargados de los dineros caminan en un tunel." Menciono. Tambien dijo que mucha gente no esta al tanto que la presente administracion recibe como el 23% de sus salorios.

Fuentes fuera del Colegio mencionaban que algunos de los que trabajaban para el Colegio reciben estampillas para alimentos para poder mantener a sus familias. Otro observador menciono, "Los que tienen espiritu de lucha se han quedado, los que se dan facilmente se han ido o creen que el Colegio es un juego o posiblemente otra carreta donde se pueden subir esque a combatir la pobreza." Cierta persona menciono que "He observado el gran numero de educadores que han abandonado al Colegio, educadores que profesaban que ayudarian a la institucion, pero a esos el sistema los ha doblegado y quien sabe por donde andaran."

Palabras de estimulo deben de darse

a la presente administracion, por sostener ardiente el tema que oprime al mexicano. Con esto demuestran que otras minoridades pueden sostener sus propias instituciones, lo hagan sin el temor de perder la identidad cultural por miedo al sistema educativo.

James A. Harris, presidente de la asociacion de maestros norteamericanos, expresaba recientemente su descontento, ya que la sociedad americana ha descuidado a su ninez. Mencionaba que existen dos millones de ninos sin recibir escuela. Dijo que que hay un millon de jovenes entre la edad de 12 a 17 anos que no saben leer ni escribir. Y descaradamente dijo que las escuelas estan fallando y que la nacion ha ignorado a sus escuelas.

Desde luego que mencionaba todos sus puntos de vista hacia la ninez norteamericana. Pero en ningun momento menciono las injusticias hacia la sociedad Chicana. Sin embargo nubes de misterio envuelven al Colegio Cesar Chavez. No hay duda alguna que esta sociedad perdiera su grandeza al ignorar al Chicano. Esfuerzos para penetrar en la corteza del Colegio y su futuro han truncado un sueno hermoso y han dejado al Colegio completamente desamperado.

La educacion para el Chicano en el estado de Oregon es inconsistente, por sus propios meritos el colegio ha demostrado que SI SE PUEDE. El sistema en desigualdad seguira existiendo si el Colegio muere. Chicanos de bajos recursos economicos no atenderan escuelas, Chicanos que podran ir al colegio cualquiera que este sea, dejaran a sus comunidades en el desamparo.

Los esfuerzos por alcanzar una educacion bicultural y bilingue, no alcanzaran a los ninos Chicanos, los jovenes se van perdiendo ya que varios no asisten a escuelas, las oportunidades para un medio mejor de vida cesaran si el colegio muere. Es imperativo que se acredite al Colegio, sostenimiento federal es necesario. Representantes y Senadores han dado su respaldo al Colegio, al menos lo tengo en escrito, sin embargo esto no ha sido suficiente. Hay alguien que le importe el Colegio Cesar Chavez?

Fuentes de prensa aseguran que el comisionado de la educacion Terrel Bell, podria remediar la situacion con un simple rasgo de su pluma fuente, al agregar el nombre del colegio a la lista de colegios elegibles para ayuda federal.

La decision de este señor no puede posponerse hasta Mayo, esto agravaria la situacion financiera de la institucion, pero lo mas importante de todo es la situacion financiera de los cuatro administradores que no se han dado a pesar de que el camino ha sido escabroso. Como en las carreras de bicicletas salen muchos, person nada mas uno llega a la meta. El cerrar el Colegio seria un desastre. Se tiene que demostrar que SI SE PUEDE!

Enrique Mendez Flores

Colegio Problems

On December 12, 1973, the former Mt. Angel College was renamed "Colegio Cesar Chavez." As of July, 1973, the Colegio was planning to offer programs leading to bachelor degrees with emphasis on the Chicano Community.

At this time everything was "milk and honey." The dreams ranged from philosophies acceptable by everyone involved in the college to goals and objectives making the largest minority group in Oregon feel a sense of pride in owning and maintaining their own institution.

Chicano educators were recruited from several southwestern states, perhaps proving to the Oregon educational system that there are many Chicano educators available when you look for them. Most of these educators hold degrees ranging from doctorates to masters and bachelors. 33 educators were soon confronted with the sour taste of reality.

Accreditation was discontinued; and the Colegio was unable to apply for an important source of income: Financial Aid. Eighty-thousand dollars in federal financial aid to students was promised to the Colegio with a condition of accreditation. The U.S. Commissioner of Education of HEW in correspondence with Chicano administrators have not reached a mutual agreement. According to Mr. Jose Garcia, Chairman of the Board of the Colegio, "The last word has been that eligibility would be resolved in May, 1975." This prolonged the agony of present administrators, who have cut their staff of eight to four.

Since Colegio has no accreditation, it has not attracted the necessary students without a student loan program.

Celedonio (Sonny) Montez, a former migrant worker, describes the general attitude towards Colegio as "amazing." At one point he mentioned, "It's now two years since the institution became a Chicano college, and a firm foundation has been laid. Black colleges last year received 257-million dollars in financial aid. We have not received a penny. Many individuals are unaware that our present staff is living on 23% of their salaries." Some staff members have had to turn to food stamps to sustain themselves and their families. "True believers stay; those who give up easily or think that Colegio is a game are sadly mistaken," affirms a viewer. "I observe the great number of staff members gone. Most of them used to preach the necessity of the Colegio,

but the system broke their backs; and they are no longer around.

Praise must be given to the present administrator for dealing with a true issue of concern of many minority people who are fearful of the educational system erasing their cultural identity.

James A. Harris, President of the National Education Association, recently stated to the media the neglect of the U.S. towards its children. He mentioned that two million school-age children are not in school and that one million Americans, ages 12 to 17, are illiterate. He bluntly stated that schools are failing the children, and the nation is failing its schools.

He addressed his viewpoints to generations of neglected children. Nowhere did he emphasize the injustices in the fabric of the Chicano society. Clouds of neglect

surround Colegio Cesar Chavez. There is no question that overlooked Chicano emeries will drain the greatness of this country. The effort of penetrating the layer of the social facade of neglect has left the Colegio weakened.

In the State of Oregon, the quality of education provided Chicanos is inconsistent. By its own merits the Colegio has demonstrated si se puede (it can be done). The system of inequality will continue if the Colegio dies. Poor Chicanos will not go to schools; rich Chicanos who can afford higher education will leave their communities behind. An effort to provide better bilingual/bicultural education will not reach our neglected children, and the opportunities for a better way of life will not increase.

Accreditation is imperative to the Colegio; federal funding is a must. At this time elected leaders have approved the existence of the Colegio to no avail. Does anyone care?

"U.S. Commissioner of Education Terrel Bell could remedy the situation with a stroke of the pen by simply placing the Colegio's name on the list of institutions eligible for federal support. As long as progress is made toward accreditation, the law allows him to do so," writes a Salem newspaper.

Bell's decision cannot be postponed; to do so will aggravate the financial burden of the present four stewards of the Colegio. To close the Colegio would be a disaster. It must be demonstrated that Si Se Puede!

Enrique Mendez Flores



Nuevo Defensor Para Derechos

El nuevo administrador de los derechos civiles, Lee E. Moore, recientemente sostuvo una entrevista con el programa de radio semanal La Voz Educativa, transmitido desde la ciudad de Portland en la radiodifusora KBPS.

Bill Stevenson, nuevo comisionado de la Labor, asigna Moore para que velara por los derechos civiles y al mismo tiempo tomara quejas acerca de discriminacion de las personas por su raza, color, origen nacional or descendencia, religion, sexo, incapacidad mental or fisica. Quejas sobre discriminacion en empleo, vivienda, escuelas vocacionales o de oficios, estas quejas seran tomadas en cuenta como un mandato de la legislatura estatal.

El Sr. Moore menciono que si una persona siente ser discriminada por algunas de las razones antes mencionadas, que el primer paso es, el notificarselos y unicamente sentirse discriminado y no tener que comprobar que lo ha sido. Segun mencionaba ninguna prueba tiene

que darse para llevar a cabo casos litigantes. En la entrevista Moore menciono que en el pasado la Divison de Derechos Civiles ha sido indiferente en las quejas de las personas de habla hispana y que ningun esfuerzo se ha hecho para establecer relaciones con la comunidad mexicana.

"Adelantos se han llevado a cabo y presentemente estamos en el proceso de preparar las formas cuando las personas se quejan en el idioma Espanol, al mismo tiempo los servicios de prensa y radiodifusion seran notificados de las quejas recibida por nuestra oficina. Varios boletines y cartelones explicando nuestros servicios seran hecho inmediatamente. Creo que esto sera bastante ayuda para las personas que no hablan Ingles." Menciono el Sr. Moore.

El mencionaba que uno de sus objetivos principales seria el impedir el acumulamiento de casos, como ha sucedido en el pasado y nuevas reglas serian implementadas para que los procedimientos

internos fueran expedidos y los arreglos con los quejantes fueran inmediatos. Se le pregunto acerca de un caso presentado hace dos anos por un grupo de personas que fueron discriminadas en el condado de Washington por un granjero que rehuso emplearlos simplemente por el hecho de ser mexicanos. El Sr. Moore respondio estar familiarizado con dicho caso y que en realidad el granjero tuvo la audacia de admitir al investigador que en realidad lo habia dicho. Dijo Moore que se llevo a un acuerdo con el grupo de personas, que unicamente una familia pudo recobrar danos, pero que el resto de personas no habian vuelto a comunicarse con ellos. Recomendo que es de suma importancia para las personas que se quejan que se comuniquen constatemente con ellos y que no pierdan contacto ya que esto es de suma importancia. Aclaro el Sr. Moore que casos como estos son expedidos ya que fue la primera vez que

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read the *Rural Tribune* for January, and truthfully I am tired of reading about Rian Brown saying that Chicanos never apply for jobs at Washington County, every time the subject of not hiring Chicano's comes up, he comes out with the same answer, Chicanos don't apply.

Well I've got proof, my two sons have both applied, and what they came up with is you are not qualified, one of my sons applied for a custodial job and he even cut his hair when he went for the interview, and he has experience, because he had done this type of work before at P.S.U. and they said that he's not qualified. You can't expect us Chicanos to be as educated as most people, we've struggled to get through High School and very rarely can afford to go to college, but it doesn't take a college education to be a custodian. Personally I know three Chicano's who've applied at this County, and didn't get hired.

Thank You
Josefina Lucero



Hard Times in Florida Workers Flood Groves

According to State Employment Figures the number of unemployed in Washington County has reached 4300 people. This represents an increase of approximately 1300 persons from the period ending December 6, 1974.

What this growing number of people have in common is that they are all after the same jobs, only now there are fewer jobs for them to get. As the following story taken from the Associated Press suggests, for some businesses this is good news.

Unemployed workers are pouring into Florida's citrus groves by the thousands, creating the largest harvest-time labor surplus here in 25 years, officials say.

And growers are responding to the influx by cutting wages, using tactics one union leader says are reminiscent of the Great Depression.

Orange and grapefruit growers, hard hit by spiraling production costs, have cut wage rates by as much as 10 cents a box because of the flood of would-be pickers, according to industry sources.

"It's the old law of supply and demand," said Clark Ghiselin, director of the Citrus Industrial Council. He estimated that pickers currently earn 35 to 40 cents a box, compared with 40 to 45 cents a box last season.

Don S. Bryan, a citrus grower in Bartow in Central Florida, said that last season, an average picker could produce about 60 boxes a day. At last year's rate of 45 cents a box, a picker would earn about \$27 a day.

Because of the labor surplus this season, Bryan said, some growers are limiting their pickers' hours and have cut them back to four-day work weeks, although Bryan's pickers are not being restricted.

New Civil Rights Chief

Oregon's new Civil Rights Administrator, Lee E. Moore, was interviewed recently on the weekly Spanish language radio program "la Voz Educativa," hosted by Enrique Mendez Flores on radio station KBPS.

Appointed by newly elected Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson, Moore said the Civil Rights Division handles complaints about discrimination because of a person's race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, sex, mental or physical disability. Investigation of employment, housing, public accommodations, vocational or trade schools are primarily the areas where the mandate is given to them by the legislature. Moore said that if a person is discriminated against, the first step should be, as required by law, "to believe" that you are being discriminated against. You no longer need to have proof or anything else that is normally required when you are talking about most formal kinds of lawsuits.

Moore said in the interview that in the past "the division has totally missed in the areas of civil rights and has not established the relationships needed with the Spanish speaking community. We are pre-

paring a complaint form, which is a brochure that pinpoints areas of discrimination. Some simple language employment posters and a newsletter in the Spanish language also will be helpful."

Moore said that his goal is to prevent the backlog built up in the past and to streamline division procedures to allow for quicker settlements. He mentioned a case filed two years ago in Washington County against a farmer who adamantly refused to hire workers of Mexican descent on the grounds of their being Mexicanos. He said that the conciliator investigated the matter, and finally a settlement was reached by a conference and negotiations. He said that the conciliator has already met with one of the complainants, has accepted an offer from the farmer, and is trying to find the other individuals so they can get money also. He said that this particular case was taken out of sequence, because a migrant worker had never before complained against a farmer.

"Results have been coming out of our Division," says Moore. "The problem in the past is that we did not publicize, and no one knew the results of those cases. Many times people feel that if no results occur the system is failing." He said that the complaint against a tavern owner in Hillsboro by a Spanish speaking person drew little attention despite a substantial amount of money granted by the courts to the complainants. Few people knew about the Civil Rights Division and that his agency refers them to a private attorney for a final money settlement.

Moore said that he is dissatisfied with the small number of complaints from the Spanish speaking people at his agency, primarily because people do not know of the services; and those who know about it do not trust the service because they feel they will not be given equal treatment. He said that the problem will be alleviated.

Moore spoke of the dress code for his employees after it was mentioned to him that migrant workers do not necessarily relate with a Civil Rights officer wearing a suit and a tie. He said that he does not wear such attire. He described his employees as casual dressers. He said that women in his office wear slacks, and he tries to keep the decorum down. "However, at the same time we like to keep it at a good level, because at the other side of the fence we have to deal with the employer. You need to establish some kind of balance to reach objectivity on both sides.

We have no uniform dress code per se in our office," he said.

Moore was asked about the cases of migrant workers who do not stay long enough to have their cases investigated. In reference to this he said, "We asked people who filed complaints, in case of moving, to keep in touch with us so know whether to pursue the case or not in this particular state."

Moore will press for the enforcement of civil rights in all its areas. People with complaints should contact the Civil Rights office at 229-5741. *EMF*

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Nuevo Defensor

un grupo de trabajadores del campo se quejan contra un granjero.

"Hemos tenido buenos resultados en nuestra division. El problema ha sido que no ha existido un medio efectivo de comunicacion lo cual hace pensar al publico en general que el sistema no trabaja." Como ejemplo menciono el caso de una taverna en la ciudad de Hillsboro en la cual fueron expulsados unos mexicanos por hablar el Espanol. Dijo que una fuerte cantidad de dinero fue compensada a los quejantes pero que muy pocas personas supieron del caso. Moore menciona que muy pocas personas estan al tanto de los servicios de su Division, dijo que en muchos casos las quejas se llegan a arreglar mediante na compensacion y que la cuestion monetaria es referida a un abogado para que lleguen a un acuerdo final el quejante y la persona acusada.

El senior Moore menciona que estaba desilusionado por el hecho que pocas personas mexicanas se quejan con su division. Indico que se debe al hecho que pocas personas saben de la existencia de su oficina y los que lo saben no tienen confianza debido a que no creen que seran tratados con igualdad y justicia. "Todo esto es cosa del pasado, yo estoy aqui para ver que todas estas injusticias sean compuestas, quiero ser de servicio para la comunidad de habla hispana y aqui estamos para servirles." Mecionaba con sinceridad el Sr. Moore.

Se le pregunto acerca de la indumentaria de sus trabajadores ya que muchos de ellos llegan a investigar casos o quejas y llevan traje y corbata, lo cual no hace inspirar confianza a un trabajador humilde, especialmente mexicanos pues no sabrian si seria un oficial de la inmigracion. Moore indico que la mayoria de las personas que trabajan con el, especialmente las mujeres usan pantalones en la oficina y trata de que sus trabajadores sean casuales en su vestido. "Al mismo tiempo cierto tipo de indumentaria tiene que ser apropiado ya que hablamos con los duenos de estable cimientos y cierto decoro tiene que guardarse. Se debe de llevar cierto balance para alcanzar nuestro objetivo en ambos lados. No tenemos reglas de indumentaria en nuestra oficina." Aclaro.

Moore volvio a sugerir que es de suma importancia que las personas se familiarizen con las actividades de su oficina, dijo que hay seis personas que hablan el idioma espanol y que personas que se quejen sobre la discriminacion guarden contacto constante, aun cuando salgan del estado para prevenir casos como el acontecido con las familias que no se pueden encontrar que pusieron quejas contra el granjero.

Personas con quejas sobre discriminacion pueden llamar al numero telefonico de Los Derechos Civiles 229-5741.

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Don Patch