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GASTON NEWS

WASHINGTON COUNTY
 COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION, INC.
 558 S.E. 10th
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Dr. Donald C. Jones, Chairman, Board of Directors
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IMMUNIZATION CLINIC - SHERWOOD: As a direct result of Dr. James Stewart County Public Health Officer, recent visit with the Sherwood Area Action Group, the Health Department conducted its first immunization clinic at the Center on Tuesday, January 23rd. *Some* 32 pre-schoolers *about* received their D.P.T. and measles shots, small pox vaccinations and oral polio vaccine. The whole clinic ran real smooth thanks to the volunteer help of Pat Smiley and Eunice Cochran. I must say that I have never seen such a wonderful bunch of kids. There wasn't a "squeal out of any of them." Of course, credit should go to the gentle touch of Marietta Sorensen, Health Nurse, who operated the needle. Good show Marietta.

An interesting sidelight was the volunteer help of Mrs. Maxine Sweetman who was on hand to ~~help and~~ inform the mothers about the Family Planning Clinic conducted every third Tuesday at the Health Department. Maxine found ~~alot of~~ *considerable* interest and was most helpful.

It should be noted here that Dr. Stewart and his staff have visited the Timber and Sherwood Centers and discussed health programs and services with the local people, and plans are in the books to meet with the people in the North Plains and Gaston-Cherry Grove areas. These meetings have been both informative and productive and have led to a set program for Immunization and Well Baby Clinics on a more scheduled basis in each of the four areas. More about this next month. A special "thank you" is in order to Dr. Stewart's initiative in bringing the services of the Health Department to the outlying areas.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATIVE HUDDLE: It takes only a few leaders to *spark* *leaders?* the process of forming a cooperative. Usually these leaders are several friends, who have a common problem or goal, that they cannot solve or reach individually. They talk their problems over informally, decide that others in their area may have the same problem and that a cooperative might solve it. This is how people get together to form any cooperative.

But this particular cooperative is different. The "problem" really is people - the people of our county who are in some way or other affected by our various and many agencies. In many instances these people are clients of the Welfare Department, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, the Schools, Juvenile Department, Ministerial Association, CAP, etc. Because the problem is the same what better way to understand it than for the service people from the various departments to get together, pool their attitudes, viewpoints, philosophies, in an informal setting where everyone enjoys freedom of expression, without the threat of mockery, indictment or inter-agency vendettas. This is the explanation of both the origin and purpose of what I would call the Inter-Agency Cooperative Huddle that meets every other Thursday for a lunch-discussion at the First Congregational Church, 5th & Main, Hillsboro. Some 32 people have showed up for the past two sessions and interest seems to be growing. Due to this large turn out we were compelled to move the meeting from the CAP office to the new location. Such topics as sex education, family planning, drugs have been touched on already.

I especially like that word "huddle". Like a football team, getting ready to make it's play, it is our guarentee of no one else knowing about the 'plays' we call in helping ourselves understand the people, and problems we are all concerned about. From this kind of open and frank exchange of ideas, all of us should benefit. But it is hoped that the people we work with, should benefit most of all. This is our only reason for getting together. So if you too are an agency person, why not join us? This is for you. It is not a public forum.

Peter M. Cullen, Editor

TUTORING PROGRAM - SHERWOOD: A priority program in the Sherwood area was some kind of education program to meet the needs of the many people who expressed the desire to get a high school diploma. Some recent high school drop-outs, and younger couples, who didn't finish high school signed up. The problem was to get an effective tutor. Then came Mike Dalton of Tualatin, who volunteered his talents. Mike is in his second year at Portland Community College and would like eventually to study at the Sorbonne, France, majoring in classical languages. A short time later Mike was joined by Mrs. Karen Wright, an accredited teacher from Sherwood, who has taught at Carlton-Yamhill Hi and Sherwood Hi. She is presently doing graduate work at Portland State and substitutes in the area. Both Mike and Karen are doing a fabulous job. Sit in on one of their sessions and you will hear a pin drop. Would you believe a needle. There are 4 sessions a week - Afternoons - Monday and Wednesdays from 2-4 PM and Evenings - Mondays and Thursdays - 7-9 PM.

A new wrinkle in this program is its Home Study feature. A few students cannot make it to the center. They study at home and Mike and Karen periodically check their work. Well done Mike and Karen. A lot of hearts feel grateful to both of you.

UPPER TUALATIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP: This is the title that the folks in the Gaston - Cherry Grove area have called themselves. Pretty Sharp! Heh! At an public meeting in January eleven area people were elected to the group, who will be the Advisory Council for the Neighborhood Center that will soon open. Chairman of the Group is Mrs. Emelyn Crook, Cherry Grove; Vice-Chairman, Bill Williams, Dilley; Secretary, Bill Embree, Cherry Grove. Other members are: Reed N. Clark, Cherry Grove; Christine Johnson, Cherry Grove; Ron Gilbertson, Cherry Grove; Jean Hedin, Cherry Grove; Marcella Martinez, Gaston; Peggy Mae Cherry Grove; Roy Merritt, Gaston; Marge Fenimore, Cherry Grove. The Center jobs of Coordinator and Aide have been advertised in all county papers, etc. and on Monday, Feb. 12, the group interviewed 15 of the 18 applicants. They have reduced the number of applicants to 5 and will make their final choice next Monday evening when they will again meet with the 5 finalists.

A DAY ON MT. HOOD: The North Plains Youth Group spent Saturday, February 3 on the sunny slopes of Mt. Hood. They pulled out of North Plains in the early hours of the morning and returned home in the early evening. Thirty young people spent the day enjoying the many activities at Timberline Lodge. The kids had spent several weeks with various projects to finance the trip, and their efforts really paid off. One re-action, which was typical, was "we just had a ball". Advisors for the trip were: Mrs. and Mrs. Ray Evans, Frank Reynolds, Elizabeth Tuttle, Jim and Kathy Carte. Well done kids! Lets have more of these.

PUBLIC MEETING RESCHEDULED - NORTH PLAINS: Due to the severe snow conditions last month the Public meeting, arranged by the North Plains Area Organization had to be called off. It is now scheduled for Monday February 26, at the Community Hall in North Plains at 8 PM. It is hoped that the community at large will participate in a discussion on their Neighborhood Center Program and effort. The meeting is open to the public. So we hope to see YOU there.

CO-OP WORKSHOP - TIMBER: Saturday, February 17th - For several months now the Timber Area Council have shown interest in the possibility of organizing a Green Forest Products Cooperative business venture in the area. But of course such an interest does demand alot of hard work in securing some basic knowledge of what a Co-op is all about. So a one day workshop has been scheduled for next Saturday, February 17 at the Timber Center. People from other CAPs through-out Oregon and Washington as well as other interested groups. Plan to participate. The schedule below should give some idea of what will be covered.