

# FARMING Facing Today's Pressures

Development  
Agribusiness

Technology  
Water

## The Rural Tribune

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### Colegio Wins Battle To Buy Campus

The long struggle has ended: Colegio César Chávez and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have worked out an agreement of sale under which the campus in Mt. Angel will be purchased from HUD by the college's non-profit corporation.

The announcement came July 4 at a press conference held in HUD's Portland offices. HUD Secretary Patricia Harris was on hand to announce the sale. Terms of the sale call for a \$50,000 down payment, a second payment of \$10,000 on July 1, 1979, and annual payments of \$20,000 on July 1 of each year until full payment is made in 1988.

Other conditions of the sale agreement will require the Colegio to assure continued use of the property as an educational institution primarily for a Spanish/English bilingual educational curriculum, and to give its best efforts to maintaining its candidacy status for accreditation from the Northwest Associ-

ation of Schools and Colleges.

Secretary Harris said, "We are hopeful this agreement will further strengthen the Colegio's efforts to stabilize its operations and to gain the necessary assistance from other Federal Departments essential to its success."

The Colegio is planning a celebration later in the month and will begin its full term September 25. Personnel are projecting an enrollment of 100 students and long range plans include development of a full-scale communications department. They will be publishing their own newspaper this fall and plan 10 issues the first year.

The Colegio is recruiting students now for the fall term. Anyone interested is asked to call Gloria Sandoval at 845-2234.

Following is Colegio official Salvador Ramirez' statement given at the July 4 press conference:

*Compañeros, Compañeras, Brothers and Sisters:*

*This agreement marks the end of*

*a 5 year battle between Colegio Cesar Chavez and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.*

*It is a milestone in the struggle of Spanish-speaking Americans for equal educational opportunity. For Colegio Cesar Chavez, this is the day of victory - over bureaucratic red tape, discrimination, over those without vision or confidence, and those who expected that in the face of hardship and sacrifice we would turn away from our goal of establishing a private, Chicano institution of higher learning.*

*This conference room itself has been the scene of heated negotiations and strained relations. But today, we set those unpleasant memories behind us. For three long years Colegio Cesar Chavez has continued its educational programs under threats of eviction. More than once we have prepared to risk our lives to resist injustice...always non-violently and always while pursuing legal remedies within the system.*

*Slowly but surely we have won support for our position. We have, individually and as a group, signed*

continued on p. 8

### Small Farmers To Convene

Farmers are being invited to a Small Farms Conference to be held in LaGrande, Oregon August 22 and 23. Jointly sponsored by Community Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the conference will give small farmers the opportunity to speak with representatives of federal agencies whose programs are designed to assist them.

The Small Farms Conference aims to provide a national voice for small farmers, to determine which problems are most pressing, and to identify needed program improvements. In addition to the La Grande session, other conference sites will be Montgomery, Alabama; Des Moines, Iowa; Portland, Maine and Albuquerque, New Mexico. More information can be obtained by calling USDA, 221-2715. □

Colegio Cesar Chavez campus in Mt. Angel



HUD Secretary Patricia Harris

### County Group to Join Anti-Nuke Protest

by Caren Caldwell

Anti-nuclear power demonstrators, including a group from Washington County, will again sit-in at the Trojan Nuclear Reactor site August 6-9.

The demonstration, sponsored by the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance, will commemorate the 33rd

anniversary of the day August 6, 1945 when Americans dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

A support rally is also scheduled for Saturday, August 5 at Portland's Water Front Park beginning at noon. The featured speaker will be Dr. John W. Gofman, the nuclear physicist whose discovery of the fissionability of uranium-233

makes possible the use of that isotope in nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. Dr. Gofman will describe his opposition to the commercial use of nuclear power.

The demonstrators will occupy the Trojan site against trespass laws. Their method of protest is

continued on p. 8

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# UP-DATE

## "Angry Migrant Tells Story" June 1978

Oregon Farmworker Legal Services called a press conference June 21 to announce formation of a Migrant Emergency Fund to aid migrants who found themselves in the same situation as Jesus Ochoa, subject of our article.

At least 3 Washington County farmers have been issued citations for health or safety violations by the Occupational Health Section of the State Workman's Compensation Board.

Washington County Community Action reported a tremendous increase in requests for emergency aid due to the influx of migrant workers, many of whom were forced to wait for work due to poor weather and a scanty crop.

In a 2-month period WCCAO's Emergency Services program responded to requests to help more than 2,350 individuals needing food or shelter, or having problems with food stamps or welfare. Between May 1 and July 15 their emergency loan fund served 227 families, with an average loan of about \$30 to help them through their emergency situations.

## "Court Delays Suit Against Housing Authority" June, 1978

The Washington County Housing Authority recently asked the court to delay proceedings to decide in the matter of a class action suit brought against them on the behalf of all Section 8 Rental Assistance Program clients. They based this request on the fact that HUD (Housing and Urban Development)

is proposing to change some of their regulations which address the issues brought up in the suit; those regarding evictions and removal from the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

Washington County Legal Services asked that the court proceedings continue without delay, because HUD's final decision about regulation changes could take many months, even a year, and they feel that a speedier decision would be more appropriate.

On July 17, the court decided to delay court proceedings for 60 days, just long enough to see what the preliminary drafts of the new HUD regulations are. Presumably, if the new regulations touch upon the issues which were brought up by the suit, it could have some bearing on the outcome of the case without the necessity (or benefit) of a hearing.

## POEMS

by Abelardo Delgado

DONDEQUIERA QUE NOS PARAMOS  
EL SUELO ES NUESTRO

los chicanos de oregón,  
verda' de dios, de oro son,  
tienen el corazón fresco  
como las brisas  
de la mañana,

sueñan, trabajan,  
luchan y no se cansan.

es una inspiración,  
vitaminas para el alma,  
verlos conseguir su centro cultural,  
su v.m. l., su colegio césar chávez,  
da gusto verlos esquinarse  
uno al otro

como todo carnal lo debe hacer...  
hoy, una clínica aquí en woodburn,  
mañana, la dignidad perdida  
será recobrada en lo entero

y nuestras canciones  
hincharan de nuevo  
nuestros espíritus morenos  
y las hembras bonitas seguirán sonriendo,  
los jóvenes con su coraje ardiendo,  
los viejos con las brasas

de una revolución  
que nunca se han apagado, suspirando...  
venga el abrazo...venga el saludo...

venga esa palabra

que indica

que el corazón es de bronce y la unión de plata,  
todo está muy bien, gracias,  
y nuestro aztlán  
acá en el norte que es la puerta,  
pues mírenlo ustedes, señores y señoras,  
creciendo clínicas, creciendo sueños,  
de nuestros destinos solo nosotros somos los dueños.

## "AFS Fails to Translate Forms" June, 1978

The Translator's Bureau has completed the job of translating the Food Stamp form, and it is being used as an aid in interpreting the English form for Spanish-speaking clients. However, it is not being filled out as an official form. In January, according to Bill Gardner, the Department of Agriculture will issue a new, official bilingual food stamp form, which is written in both Spanish and English.

To the Editor:

Rural Tribune, June 1978, page 4 states: "These (62 herbal formulas) . . . show a recorded 97percent healing rate compared to 20 percent on the synthetic drug treatments used by our 'professional' medical people". I suspect the facts are different. Herbal treatments are relatively harmless generally, whereas drugs have a poisonous effect. It is probably not so much the herbal treatment as the

fact that without powerful drugs to contend with, the human body will largely cure itself. For example: it is often reported that during a doctor's strike fewer people die; again, medical magazines report that one in every ten persons in a doctor's office is there because of an adverse drug reaction (one doctor says it is more like one in five.) Also, it is remarkable that man is endlessly sick and ailing, while in a state of nature animals do quite well without doctors, hospitals, or little bottles of potassium salts, tranquilizers, etc.

What is more, the animals in nature eat all their food raw, at whatever temperature it happens to be. Another curiosity about animals is that when sick they stop eating. They don't take food into a body weakened by disease. Man likes to think he must eat heartily when sick to "keep up his strength."

From this it appears that either man is stupid or the animals are stupid? Which would you guess?

Adrian Hughes  
Hillsboro, Oregon

## THE INVASION OF THE TEXAS LICENSE PLATES

i see these license plates  
in the whole united states  
in holyoke, colorado, in edmore,  
in unionville, in bear lake, michigan  
trucks, cars, trailers, campers,  
all of them wearing texas license plates.  
it is only that tourism from texas is heavy  
during the harvest.  
morenos, triguenos y prietos  
van manejando por los superhighways  
to arrive on time

for the potato festival,  
the sugar beet invitational,  
the cucumber concerto.

these license plates park  
in front of rows of barracks in the middle  
of the night,

i think they are labor camps.  
they also park in front of abandoned  
japanese concentration camps  
which still house the same bed mattresses  
and the six thousandth generation of bed  
bugs.

these license plates  
use blood for gas

and sweat for oil.

these tourists are the co-makers  
of the biggest food box  
in all the world.

from alabama to the yakima valley  
they toil for cheap wages to feed america's  
belly.

Considered the foremost poet of the Chicano Southwest, Abelardo Delgado has served as teacher, consultant, editor, and director of migrant, health, youth and employment programs. In addition, he is the author of 6 poetry books and a book on the Chicano Movement.

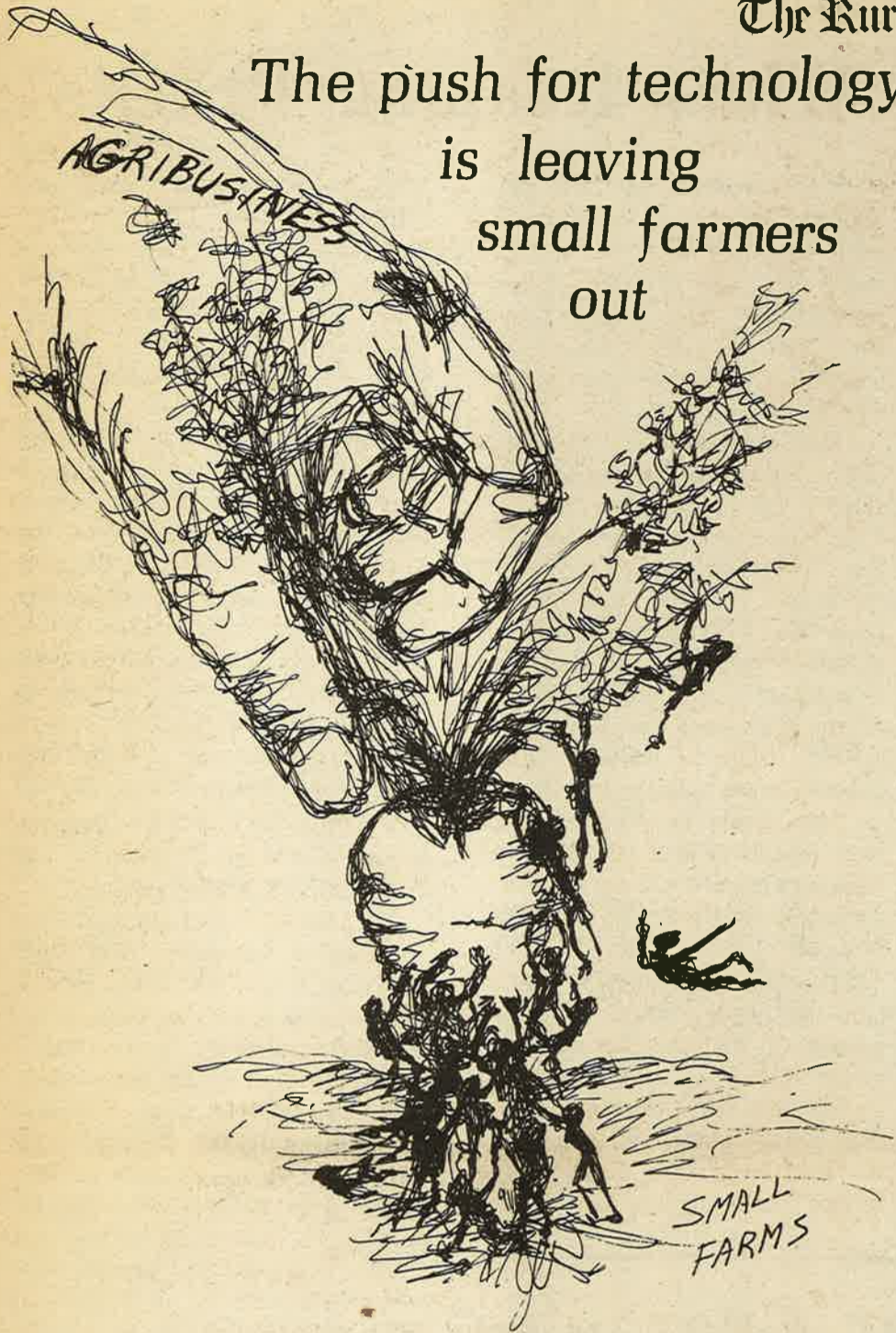
Recently Delgado was awarded the \$1000 literary prize - "Premio Tonatiuh-Quinto Sol" by Berkeley, Calif. publishers of Chicano literature. His winning book, "Letters to Louise", will be published by Tonatiuh.

Delgado is a professor of Chicano literature at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

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Project Director . . . . . Don Patch  
Editor . . . . . Judy Schilling  
Staff . . . . . Annette Bromberg, Caren  
Caldwell, Norma Garza,  
Diana Salazar

The push for technology  
is leaving  
small farmers  
out



**MECHANIZATION I**

USDA researchers have developed a new variety of strawberry - "Linn" - which they say is "Uniquely adapted to mechanical harvesting." Four prototypes of strawberry harvester have been tested in Oregon and nearly \$60,000 has been set aside by the Oregon Strawberry Commission for 1978-79 to continue research on the feasibility of harvesting and processing berries by machines.

At present, according to OSC members, getting the berry to match the machine is the No. 1 problem. Needed is a variety which will remain firm after being machine harvested, and which has berries that will ripen all at the same time. Linn plants, so far, seem to have the capabilities of producing "an acceptable product," researchers say.

Further development is still needed on the harvesters and also on intermediate processors, which cap and stem the berry.

The project, to bring all phases of mechanical harvesting together, is funded by the Northwest Regional Commission, and coordinated by Lloyd Martin, Oregon State University horticulturist and superintendent of OSU's North Willamette Agricultural Station at Aurora. Now on line and being tested are two capper-stemmers, one in the Stayton Canning Company and one at the Claremont West processing plant near Hillsboro. The capper-stemmers make up for the "lack of discrimination in the harvesting stage," according to OSU, by removing and sorting out parts of the plant which the machine picks up.

USDA officials say that letting machines harvest the strawberries "could reduce hand labor by 75 percent." □

**MECHANIZATION II**

United Farm Workers' President Cesar Chavez testified before the University of California Board of Regents in February in opposition to UC's support of agricultural research on hybridizing a "square tomato," which could be more easily sorted by electronic machine.

Chavez told the Regents that publicly financed agricultural research should fit everyone, including farm workers as well as employers.

U.C. Vice President J.B. Kendrick, Jr. denied Chavez request for a sociological study on the impact on farm workers of research on agricultural mechanization. (See "Square Tomatoes Created to Forget Labor Problem," *Rural Tribune*, May 1978)

But now, U.C. President David Saxon has reversed Kendrick's decision and pledged their support for the UFW's request that Governor Brown appoint an independent blue ribbon panel to conduct the study. Chavez contends that as new machines throw farm workers out of work, the public will have to absorb the social costs and asked that state universities devote as much research to the social consequence of their inventions as they now devote to the inventions themselves. □

Is Bigger Better?

by Judy Schilling

...So you want to earn your living on a small family farm...Can it be done? Hardly, argues an Oregon State University Extension Service pamphlet (EC 919). Better look twice, it warns: "You should be aware that very few farming operations of less than 50 to 100 acres provide an adequate living for a family."

To begin with, Extension agent Lloyd Baron will point out, what other profession requires people to invest perhaps a quarter of a million dollars in order to feed their family? Even Paul Alexander, farm editor for the *Hillsboro Argus*, will tell you that you can have \$50,000 worth of equipment and "still be able to hide it behind the barn."

So what keeps farmers farming? Do you have to be "big" to make it? And just how "big"?

According to the latest census data available, the average size farm in Washington County is 86 acres. Of the total 1,909 farms here, only about half grossed sales over \$2500 last year. Yet the average value of products sold was \$21,954 per farm. These figures show that the biggest farms made the bulk of the profits. Some 131 farms sold more than \$100,000 each; that's what brought the farm sales average up so high.

Is bigger better? Baron thinks so, pointing out that the size of farms is growing while their numbers are decreasing. Because of the cost of mechanization, and because present marketing and distribution techniques make it easier to sell a larger harvest than get rid of a small one, family farms are going under. They can't keep up with the costs of fertilizer, pesticides, labor, machinery, buildings, transportation - or the taxes, or the lack of a steady market.

Buried deep within our complicated system of growing and marketing and our dependency on high yields and petrochemicals, are some concerns that won't go away. They just seem to get tilled under, like so much stubble, year after year.

Nationwide the symptoms of illness within the system keep resurfacing - salinization of soils, leeching out of minerals, erosion, pesticides in the food chain, monoculture endangering the vitality of our seed stock. While farming moves on its way to become bigger business, the very elements it depends on - good soil and clean water - are

being depleted, and in some cases, irreparably destroyed.

**A "Counter Revolution"**

In the past few years there has been a growing interest in organic, small scale, alternative - call it what you will - agriculture. Magazines such as *Organic Gardening and Farming*, *Mother Earth News*, and *Small Farmers Journal* have flourished and boomed as these small scale farmers get into the competitive business of farming. They are striving to be more than part-time and more than self-sufficient. They are trying to go all the way and make a profit.

Many have formed farming cooperatives and land trusts, and are doing research into preserving and disseminating traditional seed varieties. They are powering their places with the sun, the wind and methane. They are what one writer calls a "counter revolution" against the high energy petrochemical technology of the "green revolution" which helped march thousands of small farmers off the land, as they could no longer compete with the agribusiness which developed.

It is impossible to estimate how many of these alternative farmers there are. In Washington County we talked to a few, who admitted that while nature is with them, societal odds are not.

One basic problem, reported one farmer, is that it is nearly impossible to get financing for farms which don't project the "traditional image" of farming (i.e. bigger is better).

Another major problem facing the small scale farmer is the lack of a steady market. Even with thousands of people living nearby, small growers are still not finding good outlets for their crops. These examples only help to widen the gap between the backyard gardener and the big time farmer.

Where do our agricultural products go? Look East, and there you will find Oregon berries, grain, fruit, nuts and nursery stock, supplying an insatiable Eastern market. Some estimate that perhaps as much as 90 percent or more of our harvest leaves the state. Some products such as grain find their way back, from the Midwest, in the form of grain-fed beef, fattened thousands of miles away and shipped back to us for consumption.

**"You Do It For People"**

We talked to many growers who  
continued on p. 7

# Dynamics of Development: Who's Reaping Profits?

by Annette Bromberg

**The land rush is on. Everyone who can afford it is buying land. And those who can't afford to buy now are afraid they may never be able to own land in the future.**

Almost overnight, farmers are finding themselves with land worth \$3,000 an acre, or even more if it is close to town, in an area which is zoned for development. Their 80 acre farm (the average sized Washington County farm) only makes about \$255 per acre annually after expenses. And the smaller the farm, the smaller the average profits, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture Reports of 1974.

So, many of the small farmers are tempted to sell their barely-profitable farm and move farther away from the cities where they can buy more acres and farm on a more profitable scale. Many farmers simply stop farming altogether and retire. (The average age of farmers in 1974 was 53 years.) Some farmers who are situated in areas zoned Rural AF 5 or AF 10 (minimum

acreage size of 5 and 10 acres respectively), can also "parcel" off up to three portions of their farm a year and make quite a tidy sum.

A new breed of suburbanite is in the buying mood. They snatch up any small acreages (realtors call them "farmettes") or farms they can afford. Most of the time, these farms and "farmettes" are not put to any agricultural use, since it is not profitable to do so. The people who buy are often professionally employed with a substantial income, and commute to town. They buy the country lifestyle without the responsibility of making it pay for itself. They are buying an investment, a hedge against inflation.

The County zones this land as having marginal agricultural or forestry value, and therefore allows

it to be parcelled into these small acreages. However, some people argue that parcelization does take some land out of intensive agricultural use. Once divided, a farm can never be made whole again, whether it is large or small, profitable or not.

But parcelization represents only a fraction of the development activity in Washington County. Real estate is a booming industry here. Everyone wants a piece of the action. In fact, last June, no fewer than 3,000 people showed up at one session to take the State Real Estate Licensing Examination. At the time there were only about 8,500 licensed realtors doing business in the entire state.

New development - subdividing large parcels of land for residential building on small lots - is where big profits lie for those who know how to go about it.

There are basically two types of land developers: those who put parcels of land together and subdivide them, and those who build on the lots once they are platted out. The developers who aggregate the land most often buy "options to buy" from owners. The options

amount to leasing the land with option to buy contingent on many varying factors such as getting zoning approval, sewer and water annexations, getting approval for subdivision - - in short, getting what is needed for subdividing the land into buildable lots.

The trick to developing successfully, we are told by realtors, is to borrow as much money as possible, and pass the responsibility for direct outlay of money to the next person down the line - - ultimately the consumer. This is called "leverage". The other important factor is to sell what you own as quickly as you can, to avoid holding costs - - payments, taxes, etc. - - which can cripple developers financially if they don't have enough "staying power" to wait for a buyer.

## ONLY A FEW DO A LOT OF DEVELOPING

Despite increasing risks and complexity in the development process, it is a thriving business in Washington County. In fact, Washington County officials believe that 1977 was a peak year for new development in the County. The interesting thing is, only a few people were walking off with the profits.

When the County reviewed its subdivision activity in March of 1977, officials were shocked by a finding they were not even looking for. States one County employee, "We wanted to know where and how many lots were available for development at that time. We found 3,000 lots were ready for immediate development. The shocker was that more than 70 percent of those lots were controlled by less than 10 people."

According to County records, the controlling interests at that time included Glen Gordon, Gordon Merrill, Leavitt-Nu Pacific, Robert Randall, Park City, Art Lutz, Bouman Construction Company, Dale deHarport, and Wedgewood Homes. Most of them are local Oregon development companies which were able to invest big money in the right places.

But some feel that 1977 was an unusual situation in the development game, and that never again will so much development be done by so few. Since that time, records indicate that less development is occurring, and that is being done by about 25 people in the County.

## WHERE IS ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT GOING ON?

Every year, approximately 600

continued on p. 8

continued on p. 6

# Agribusiness: The One Year Guarantee

by Don Patch

Farming has always been a marginal business. Large investment requirements for machinery and labor have consistently minimized profits for those who work the land. Increasing the profit risk are the many uncontrollable variables such as weather, seed disease, drought, flood, and other natural phenomena. No other occupation has been dependent on so many variables.

Agribusiness, i.e. the entry of large corporate bodies into farming, has appeared to provide the small farmer a more stable return on his investment. Large corporate giants such as Tenneco, Purex, Standard Oil, Southern Pacific, and ITT to name a few, have exerted considerable influence to develop control over food markets.

One such method of developing control over food markets is called vertical integration. One company buys another company which is responsible for some other stage in the production of the same product or products. A corporation then enters a new phase of the production process, and gains a

competitive advantage by controlling costs, thereby protecting itself from market fluctuations.

Contractual integration is similar to vertical integration. If a corporation signs a contract for services with a person or entity in the production or marketing process, the person or entity must adequately perform the services required by the contract. If the corporation is not satisfied with the performance of services it need not renew the contract. Since farm operations may be financially dependent on the corporation's business, the contract enables the corporation to exert tremendous pressure on the people with whom it contracts.

In most cases vertical integration is being accomplished through contracts with farmers. The corporation does not become a farmer, it rents one. Agribusiness critics describe vertical and contractual integration as the most significant trend in agriculture today. Gene Potter, of the National Farmers Organization, went right to the heart of it when he said, "farmers sign contracts with

integrators because they are hard-pressed."

Certainly farmers in Washington County are hard pressed to find markets for their produce. In the last 10 years several processing outlets have shut down their operations for good, or moved them to other parts of the state.

One large cooperative which has come into the county is Pro-Fac. Pro-Fac is an agricultural operative corporation formed in 1961 under New York law to process and market crops grown by its members. Only growers of crops marketed through Pro-Fac can become members of Pro-Fac; a grower becomes a member of Pro-Fac through the purchase of common stock.

Pro-Fac owns twenty-three food processing plants and other distribution and office facilities in six states, all of which are leased to and operated by Curtice-Burns. C.B. Inc. processes all of the crops grown by members of Pro-Fac and markets the finished food products as well as other products not manu-

**INTENT OF ORIGINAL RECLAMATION ACT**

Forty years after the Homestead Act of 1862 opened up the West to settlers in 160 acre sections, Congress again saw a need to promote western settlement.

"By the early 1900's nearly all the humid, arable land in the public domain had been homesteaded, sold or given away," writes Jim Bauermeister in "Tilth Magazine". "Yet many thousands of acres remained which could be made productive by using the great rivers of the west. Although Congress had attempted to provide incentives to individuals and to states to develop irrigation projects, the high cost of reclamation precluded any significant efforts to settle arid lands. In 1902 Congress provided for federal sub-

sidation of irrigation projects in the western states."

This is the Federal Reclamation Act of 1902. The law was directly aimed at aiding the small farmer, as the statute states:

"No right to the use of water for land in private ownership shall be sold for a tract exceeding 160 acres to any one landowner, and no such sale shall be made to any landowner unless he be an actual bona fide resident in the neighborhood (i.e. within 50 miles)."

**ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL LAW**

**1914** Congress added an anti-land speculation provision. This required that owners of land in excess of the 160 acre

limit sell their land at its original value before a decision to build an irrigation project was made.

**1926** Landowners were permitted by the Omnibus Adjustment Act to receive federal water for excess land if they signed a contract with the United States to sell the excess within 10 years.

**1958** The Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the 160 acre limitation, stating, "The limitation insures that this enormous expenditure will not go in disproportionate shares to a few individuals with large land holdings. Moreover, it prevents the use of the federal reclamation service for speculative purposes."

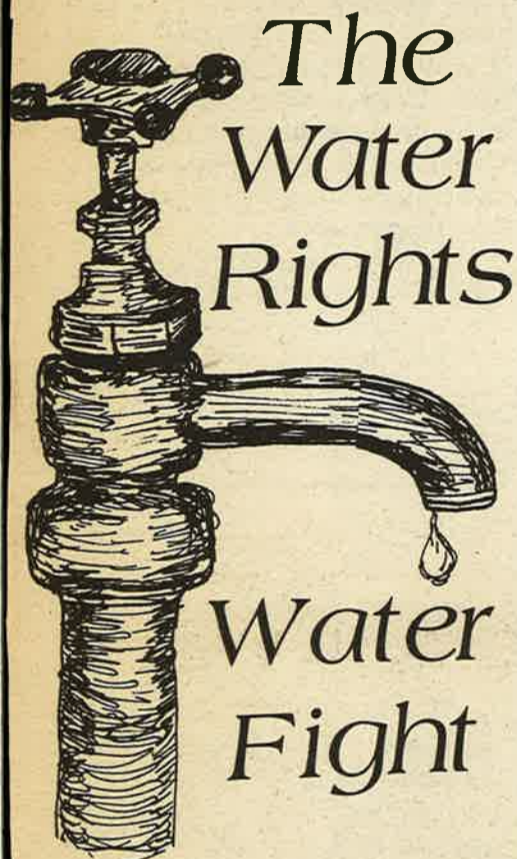
**1977** After 75 years of ineffective enforcement by the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Department of the

Interior, NLP won a court order to require Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus to issue regulations for enforcing the 1902 Law.

When these regulations came out last August, large landowners protested avidly and initiated a lawsuit that has stalled implementation of the regulations for a year. The stalling tactic was to compel the government to complete an Environmental Impact Statement on the break-up of giant farms.

If enforced, the 1902 Law threatens the breakup of 5,288 Western farms that control over 1,090,000 acres in California and 233,000 outside California.

**1978** Congress is studying a number of proposals to change or enforce the 1902 Law.



by Caren Caldwell

For 75 years agribusiness took advantage of a water rights law that was meant to aid small family farmers. Now agribusiness, facing possible strict enforcement of the Federal Reclamation Act of 1902 for the first time, is pressuring Congress to repeal the provisions that large farmers have gained so much from for so long.

Agribusiness is only one of the factions which have initiated some 22 proposals that Congress will soon review. Other factions are land reformers seeking to break up monopolistic corporate farms, moderate senators promoting a balance between large and small farming practices, and the Carter administration.

Congress' review of the proposals to update the old law is slowed now until committee action is taken on the controversial Alaska Public Lands Bill.

The 1902 Reclamation Act was intended to supply small farmers with federally-subsidized irrigation water. The Act restricts federal water benefits to owners of 160 acres or less. But land reform

groups have charged that the historical unwillingness of the Department of the Interior to enforce the Act has allowed large corporate landowners to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of federal water they were not entitled to. Individuals and corporations have also been able to speculate on huge tracts of arid land which have greatly increased in value as federal irrigation projects were built. (See side article for history of the Reclamation Act.)

**ACTION HOPED FOR BY FALL**

Hearings were held during July by the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, where testimony from both large and small farmers' groups was heard. Now the various proposals are on hold. The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Henry Jackson (Washington), is tentatively scheduled to take action on the Reclamation Act proposals after completing work on the Alaska Public Lands issue, possibly after their August recess.

Major among the 22 proposals are:

□ the Hatfield-Church Bill, sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield (Oregon) and Sen. Frank Church (Idaho). This proposal would eliminate the residency requirement and define a recipient of federal water as an individual, family or legal entity (i.e. corporation or collective) that benefits 25 people or less. Hatfield wishes to include small legal entities because Oregon has many family-owned corporations in agriculture.

Hatfield-Church would also limit acreage to 1280 acres of Class One land, but allow more acreage on less productive land. After a farmer has repaid a water-use loan, this proposal would allow him to receive water for any amount of acreage.

□ the Carter Administration proposals which have not been introduced as a bill, but have been delineated in the Senate and House hear-

ings. The Administration asks that the current residency requirement, where a farmer lives within 50 miles of his land, be enforced, but only for new owners. Current owners would not have to comply with residency requirements and exemptions would be allowed for retirement or health reasons.

One problem with the current Reclamation Law is that large landowners can receive water for lands in excess of the 160 acre limitation by assigning parcels to family members, including children, or to stockholders. To avoid this, the Administration would limit eligibility to two adults over 18 who could receive water for up to a total of 960 acres of owned and leased land.

□ the Abourezk Bill, introduced by Sen. James Abourezk, (S.Dakota) proposed by National Land for People (NLP), a land reform group in California. This would be the strictest proposal, as they call for residency of the farm owner within 15 miles of the farm and acreage limitations varying with the type of agricultural use. Within California acreage limitations would range from 20 to 640 acres, increasing to 960 acres maximum for areas with shorter growing seasons such as Oregon.

The Abourezk Bill would require a public lottery to dispose of land held in excess of these acreage limitations before a farm owner could receive federal water. It would also allow 640 acres to be transferred to family members.

A corporate landowner faction from California has already lost passage of a bill they proposed which would have exempted four large landowners from the present 160 acre limitation. Large landowners and corporations argue that they are entitled to own large parcels and that the 1902 limitations are out of date.

Clearly, compromises will have to be made to render passage of a single, comprehensive bill from these several factions.

**OREGON UNCONCERNED?**

The California agribusiness lobby is spending thousands of dollars a day to repeal residency requirements and acreage limitations, reports Peggy Kehrer at the Portland office of Clergy and Laity Concerned, an organization which favors protection for the small farmer.

Agribusiness interests would like to see passage of a new bill on which they would have input before completion of the Environmental Impact Statement allows enforcement of the 1902 160 acre limits to go into effect. Yet, she added, there is not "real pressure" on Congress coming from Oregon.

The major effect of reclamation legislation will be in California. Eighty percent of the land which is affected by the 1902 law lies in California. About 3,900 California farms hold over 1,090,000 total acres in excess of the 160 acre restriction. In comparison, only 91 Oregon farmers holding a total excess of about 16,980 acres would be affected by enforcement of the Reclamation Act. NLP reports that of the Western States' 733,000 farms, less than 0.1 percent would be affected.

Under the acreage limitations of the 1902 Act, farmers are given 10 years to sell excess land or go without federal water subsidies. Enforcement of this rule and the residency requirement is lax and little land has ever been sold for this reason, according to NLP and a Ralph Nader group which studied the Bureau of Reclamation in 1971.

"Breaking up large land holdings," suggests Jim Bauermeister of Tilth Magazine, "could mean land settlement opportunities for young people, for those people who can't afford land at inflated speculative rates."

Tom Decker, staff assistant to Sen. Hatfield, predicts that enforcement of any new bill will rest, as it has in the past, with local irrigation districts which are organizations of

continued on p. 8

# Kids & Insecticides: Is It Really Safe?

by Norma Garza

This year approximately 624 youths ages 11 and over picked strawberries in the county, according to statistics from the Washington County Extension Service. Were those youths endangered by being in fields sprayed with insecticides? Could the insecticides be poisonous or harmful to the young pickers?

"Insecticides are safe if used properly," said County Extension Agent Arden Sheets. There are 5 most widely used in this area: Diazinon, Malathion, Thiodan,

## DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT

continued from p. 4

acres of unincorporated Washington County land goes into subdivisions, with about the same level of development occurring in the incorporated areas of the County as well. Virtually all development activity happens within Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) Urban Growth Boundary, that area which is designated for development in the County's Comprehensive Framework Plan.

Of Washington County's total 720 square mile area, some 94 square miles is zoned for either immediate development (Urban Growth Boundary), or for development within 10 or 15 years (Urban Intermediate Growth Boundary). These two zones lie like concentric circles around Washington County's cities and towns. Today, only about 15 square miles of the total 94 "developable" square miles is actually in residential use.

Of the remaining five-sevenths of Washington County's land, 268 square miles is currently being used agriculturally, and 298 square miles is in timber. Only about one and one-third square miles, or 1,000 acres, is being used for business or industry in the County.

Comparing development activities in urban areas of Washington County with urban portions of the other three counties (Multnomah, Clackamas, and Columbia) of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, (SMSA), Washington County does more than its fair share. Although the Washington County area claims less than 20 percent of the total population of the SMSA, it did about 33 percent of the building of new dwelling units in 1977.

Let's put that into perspective. Last year, 50,000 people either were born or moved to Oregon. Washington County's new dwelling units in the SMSA would have had the potential to house 35,000 of them.

Kelthane, and Sevin. Each has certain number of days it must be left on the fields before pickers should pick. Diazinon should be left on five days, for Malathion it is three days, for Thiodan four days, Kelthane is two days and Sevin is one day. "The interval is also very important between last application and harvest," explained Sheets.

Sheets claims that if insecticides were not used, the yields would be very low and we would have fewer or poorer berries.

Lloyd Duyck, of Lloy-dene Farms, told us insecticides are used because "at least you know what you're doing." Biological pest control doesn't always work, he says because sometimes the

County officials believe that the demand for housing far exceeds the actual need, and doesn't really justify the volume of building which is going on. This is because real estate has become a sort of investment stock for those with the money to sink into it. People are buying beyond their actual needs as a hedge against inflation. For instance, childless families with two working adults are buying large homes and meeting the large monthly payments out of their combined salaries. But they don't need the space. And realtors will tell them that such investments are smart. They can't lose. How else can they keep up with inflation? they ask.

Others warn to be careful. The housing market, they say, is just experiencing a boom. Prices will drop eventually. History records that the land market, just like the stock market, has its ups and downs. Changes occur less frequently, but with more severity, and more suddenly.

Some people believe that new development has reached a peak in the County. They point to high development costs, increasing risks in the development business, and increasing government restrictions as factors. The question which no one can guess at is, "How long will people be able to afford such high prices for so little?" And when they stop buying, then what?

### IS GROWTH HEALTHY?

But pessimistic theories are only theories, and people continue to buy whatever the developers build. So developers build, and some feel, over build, where they can in the county. But is growth always good for a community? Is there a danger in overdevelopment?

History should teach us a lesson. After World War II, land prices began to rise, and develop-

animals that are supposed to feed on the pests don't always do it. Duyck says it can "turn into a disaster." But either way, he claims neither insecticides nor biological pest control is dependable. "You can't be sure of either," he stated.

Sheets says insecticide costs average out between ten dollars to fifteen dollars an acre. If insecticides were not used, Duyck says, few crops would grow, so the profits would be bad.

Aphids are one of the biggest problems with strawberries. They can spread a virus from berry to berry. Other pests to strawberries are fruit worms, which eat the berries, and spider mites which suck out the juice, leaving the straw-

ment was brisk. However, in the 50's and 60's developers began to speculate even more heavily than before in Washington County. In those days there were no land use plans with zoning to regulate development patterns. Developers could subdivide anywhere they had a hankering to do it, regardless of where it lay in relation to established urban centers. There was big money in buying up farms in the agricultural heart of the county and turning them into lots with rows of houses on them.

As a result of this freewheeling development activity, developers began to "leapfrog" into more and more remote areas of rural Washington County, leaving random pockets of development in their wake. Today, such communities as Rock Creek, Wilsonville, and Aloha bear mute testimony to pre-land use planning days of the 50's, 60's, and early 70's.

Finally, Washington County became nervous about the impending "urban sprawl" which was spreading, and edging into some of the most prime agricultural land in the United States. In an effort to control development and to influence it to follow an orderly pattern of growth around established population centers, its first Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted in 1973.

Further regional guidelines were instituted through LCDC in 1978 to help the Portland Metropolitan Area plan how to use the land in the most efficient way, concentrating growth around population centers and conserving prime agricultural and timber land.

But LCDC and the County hold a double edged blade. In the list of priorities they must consider in adopting zoning boundaries, they must provide for adequate housing

berries small.

"Insecticides are proven safe by the chemical companies who manufacture them," says Sheets. According to him, they are tested on laboratory animals "which costs ten million dollars for the whole operation of testing."

There's a big battle going on concerning the dangers of using insecticides. Some say they'd rather have a smaller crop than have any kind of poison on it.

How can we tell if someone is suffering from insecticide poisoning? It's difficult, if not impossible. Sources at the Virginia Garcia Clinic report that symptoms from insecticide poisoning are so vague, it could look like the flu. Many people fear that residue from insecticides may build up in a person over the years.

It may take months or years before we find out the consequences from Washington County youth working in fields sprayed with insecticides - their cheap labor today could be costly for them tomorrow. □

in the County as well as conserve agricultural and timber resources. They must decide how to regulate this conflict in interests between developers and conservationists.

Their basic attitude seems to have evolved to "Development is all right - in its place, near the towns and cities." They have decided this for several reasons. Development which is spread out in rural areas is wasteful of the land, and takes land from agricultural and forestry use. Another reason for concentrating development is that it is cheaper to incorporate into already existent service systems than to create services from scratch for an isolated development somewhere in the middle of the country.

But the nationwide trend of municipal moratoriums may indicate that even cities can't afford heavy development. The 90-day moratorium on building in Beaverton may be a case in point. Although developers absorb the distribution charges of services for their new developments, they don't have to finance updating backup systems which have no more capacity to serve further development in the community. For that, municipal bonds must pass elections; but voters are refusing to foot the bill for the costs of growing service systems to a denser population that they are not sure they welcome.

In Beaverton's case, the city's water storage supply capacity must

continued on p. 8

have operated U-Pick businesses over the years. While the Extension Office and Chamber of Commerce Office's publication of a "Farm Fresh Foods" guide has helped bring in new customers, the growers seemed to agree: you won't get rich. One Tualatin grower said, "You don't do it for profit, you do it because you like people." The market is sporadic, customers don't always pick as clean as growers like and can damage plants, and they still need personnel to supervise and work the fields. One Cornelius grower said that he felt people preferred already-picked produce. He told us, "People will drive 30 miles to come to my place and when they get here they don't want to pick. They want to buy and take it home and can it." If that grower had a ready market place he wouldn't have to wait for customers, and the customer could readily get his produce.

Many small growers told us they had cut back on the quantity and variety of crop since Birdseye closed its Hillsboro plant and moved to Woodburn. Transportation costs are too high, they said, to get their produce to the plant now. Many are growing wheat instead of broccoli, squash or pumpkins. But, says Argus writer Alexander, that trend will have to reverse itself some way because "you can't make money growing \$3 a bushel wheat." Where to turn? To berries for Oregon's burgeoning wine industry? To ornamentals? Or to better local marketing?

#### Bringing Growers Together

In 1975 a group of small farmers formed the Mid-Willamette Growers Association, and set up a cooperatively run produce stand next to a food co-op in Corvallis. Since that time, their produce stand has grown into an enclosed store with vegetable coolers, selling high quality and organically grown local foods at very reduced prices. They are bringing together growers and buyers, encouraging small farm operations, and educating people in organic and energy-effective growing methods. Their interests include cooperative buying of equipment - one way to minimize costs for the growers - and expanding their marketing operations. Their association is helping to keep neighboring farms growing fresh vegetables because their store can hold and sell items in bulk that U-pickers can't pick, that large corporations don't want to bother with, and that farmers can't store on their own property until a buyer drives out from town.

One potential now being ex-

plored locally is to link the small growers with food co-ops and Portland's already established Saturday Market. Washington County alone has nearly 4,000 members in three food co-ops - members who crave fresh produce. Small farmers need those customers.

#### Who's Threatening Who?

We asked several people what the greatest threat to the small farmer is today. Baron told us: "ecologists" (who might insist that no chemicals be used); "labor" (a rising cost we can't pass on to the consumer, but which is becoming less of a problem as we mechanize); and "taxes." One North Plains grower, Bill Triest, cited "urbanization" as the biggest threat. He posed the question, what if you could own only the land you were living or working on? How would this affect the price of land, and the taxes?

One small farmer said the greatest threat is really the lack of support small farmers get. "I don't want to use chemicals," he said, "but the Extension Service publishes chemical reports as if that's all the farmer needs and the crops will come rolling in. What I need is

Some growers are critical of programs such as the Extension Service because the programs receive grants from chemical manufacturers (OSU Agriculture department receives some 20 percent of its funding this way), and because large institutions are aiming new technology at reducing large labor forces and in general pushing for a "bigger is better" type farm. And Baron, who appears to feel threatened by "ecologists", is critical of organic techniques. He feels organic farming hasn't been proven effective. He said we are too reliant upon today's farming practices and higher yield to make the change.

#### Who's Going to Lose?

The gaps between organic vs. petrochemical and smaller vs. larger are so wide, that all sides feel people will go hungry if their own method isn't used. Baron, for example, says yields would be cut in half and people would go hungry if chemicals weren't used. Organic growers say unless we stop using chemicals and start developing the soil, we won't be able to grow much anyway. And they may be right. How long can soil be pumped full of petrochemicals before it just

***"If USDA and other government and academic institutions don't change their policies and outlook, the future of small farmers is bleak."***

help with building up my soil so I don't need so much water, and to locate a good market. One time I called someone to find out how to get rid of moles. One suggestion I got was that since moles eat earthworms, I should poison the worms and the moles would leave. Imagine that!"

If agriculture today does reverse itself and returns to better soil practices and low energy methods, it will be a quantum leap. Yet alternative farmers claim that everyone had best start trying to make the transition before exhausted soil, unclean water and new pesticide-resistant insects force them to. Even without a support system, many alternative farmers nationwide have proven that they can be successful with a combination of soil building, natural fertilizers, biological pest control and small simple systems that depend on renewable resources. Perhaps ultimately they may be able to feed us all - provided we don't let urbanization gobble up our farm lands first.

stops producing?

Studies quoted by Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins in their book *Food First* show that in areas of the U.S. where pesticides are used with ever greater intensity, crop losses due to pests are frequently increasing.

How wisely are petrochemicals being used? At a February 22nd Symposium on World Food, Pest Losses and the Environment held by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, scientists agreed that use of pesticides was poisoning the environment of large areas and harming both plants and people. Robert van den Bosch of the University of California, an entomologist, told the symposium "There has been no bigger loser under the pest control use patterns of the last one-third century than the grower himself."

Reports in *Organic Farming and Gardening* magazine describe farmers in northern regions applying chemicals against insects that only live in southern regions. In some places, too, they said, 70

percent of the chemicals used were merely being applied as preventative measures. In Sweden, the government has proposed adding a tax to fertilizers to help correct their detriment to the environment. Use of chemical fertilizers there has doubled every ten years and now in some areas 20 to 40 percent of sampled wells showed nitrate levels higher than 50 ppm, a level labelled "more than dangerous." Fertilizers are cheap insurance against crop loss - at least for now.

In *The Status and Prospects of Small Farmers in the South*, a report written by U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall and Professor Allen R. Thompson of the University of New Hampshire, the authors claim that, "If the USDA and other government and academic institutions don't change their policies and outlook, the future of small farmers is bleak." They point out that "small farmers have borne the major brunt of the changes in the farming sector. If efforts were made to develop more suitable machinery for small operators, then small farmers could become as technically efficient as large farmers."

Trying to preserve the present state of farming is like trying to make it rain: futile. Farming practices are always changing, but the direction can be planned and determined. At present the money, the power, the push, is in the hands of large institutions and their supporting corporations. Can farming redefine its priorities in terms of humanness and environment?

Farming is a \$48 million a year business in Washington County. But it is becoming more and more confined into fewer and fewer hands. It could be greater, broader, and healthier if small scale farmers could find the market, the technology and the support they so desperately need. □

#### WEATHERIZATION AVAILABLE NOW

Once again it is time to plan for cold, wet days ahead. Weatherization services for low income families are available now, to avoid the wait that occurs during the winter months. You can call the Weatherization office at 640-3800 or 648-6646 (message), and inquire as to your eligibility for the program. Some of the services offered are: Caulking, attic insulation, vapor barriers, semi-permanent storm windows, weatherstripping, roof patching, and in general making your home more energy efficient by guarding against weather infiltration. Those who qualify receive the above services free of charge.

**AGRIBUSINESS: 1 YR. GUARANTEE**  
 continued from p. 4

factured from Pro-Fac crops.

Curtice Burns is in turn controlled by Agway, another farmer operated cooperative with headquarters also in New York. Agway's vertical integration includes businesses in the fields of insurance, chemicals, feed, petroleum (Agway owns wells off the coast of Ghana) home and garden equipment, tools, building design and materials and its own finance subsidiary called Telmark. Agway is also the company who created Pro-Fac.

Farmer members of Pro-Fac buy shares from Pro-Fac. With the purchase of these shares come crop purchase guarantees - x number of tons for each share. Pro-Fac then sells the produce to Curtice-Burns who then processes and markets it. In some cases the processing is done by Curtice-Burns with Pro-Fac equipment.

Many favored agreements exist between Pro-Fac and Curtice-Burns. If, for example, Curtice-Burns sustains a loss from sales on products marketed, the rent they pay to Pro-Fac, for equipment use, etc., would be reduced accordingly.

Pro-Fac and Curtice-Burns grow through the acquisition of food processing and marketing plants and facilities. Pro-Fac assesses its ability to supply the crops to the company to be acquired and Curtice-Burns assesses its ability to process and market the products of the company.

The relationship, however, is dominated by Curtice-Burns. For it is the marketing arm of the relationship which determines what and how much produce can be turned into profit. The farmer and his cooperative Pro-Fac can only respond to the judgement of Curtice-Burns and hope that they are right.

Still at the end of the production chain, the farmer risks the same energy and investments he always did. What agribusiness has given him, in terms of business, is a commitment to buy or not buy his crops. A commitment which gives Pro-Fac members a scant year's notice each March.

**FOOD SELLERS WANTED**

Portland Saturday Market is looking for persons interested in selling local fruits and vegetables that they pick or gather from local farmers. This is a chance to work for yourself in a fun atmosphere for possibly good money. For more information, call Steve Flynn or Bill Triest at 243-2114 or 222-6072. □

**COUNTY GROUP JOINS ANTI-NUKES**  
 continued from p. 1

called civil disobedience for which each demonstrator must receive non-violent training prior to the occupation. They intend to remain at the site until the nuclear power plant is permanently shut down or until they are forcibly removed.

TDA also held two previous sit-ins at Trojan last year when police arrested the demonstrators.

"There's no way to get media coverage without creating news," said TDA member Glenna Hayes, explaining why TDA uses civil disobedience.

In an attempt to stop the sit-in, PGE sought a court injunction July 31. (The decision on the injunction had not been made by press time.) But Hayes stated that an injunction "won't affect our plants."

Bruce Landrey, PGE Public Relations Director, explained, "We sought the injunction to prevent these people from interfering in the access to our plant, our recreation area, and our visitors center."

He added that the company also wanted to save money for the taxpayer and PGE as the two previous TDA demonstrations have incurred security and court costs.

A group of nuclear power opponents in Forest Grove have formed an Affinity Group to join TDA in the Trojan protest. They will sponsor two films on the Seabrook nuclear power facility in New Hampshire and on the last sit-in at Trojan by TDA. The films will be shown August 3 at Pacific University from 7 - 9 p.m. in Toom 8 of the University Center.

For further information the contact person of the Forest Grove Affinity Group is Leslie Goldstein, 357-7925. □

**WATER RIGHTS WATER FIGHT**

continued from p. 5  
 farmers in local areas. Enforcement would be reviewed by the Department of the Interior, the agency currently criticized for not enforcing the 1902 law.

However, Decker states that redefining who is eligible to receive water and making non-additive acreage limitations, as are now proposed, will eliminate the loopholes that large farm holders have taken advantage of.

Whether a new reclamation act will force the government to comply with the intent Congress had in 1902 to encourage small family farms, depends on whether Congress has the same intent today. And today's Congressional intent may depend on the success of lobbying efforts by large and small farming interests. □

**COLEGIO WINS BATTLE WITH HUD**  
 continued from p. 1

over our property and personal possessions to guarantee to others the seriousness and tenacity of our purpose. And, we have endured editorials and press coverage that have been so quick to announce our shortcomings. Still we did not move.

That is why today, Independence Day, is so appropriate for this announcement - because, like those who fought against all odds to found this nation, we too have pledged our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to establish and defend what we hold dear.

But this victory is a result not only of our own efforts, but of our prayers, because we are a people of faith. Early next month we will hold a victory fiesta at the Colegio and after that a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City in gratitude for this victory.

This agreement knocks down the last of the blockades to Colegio Cesar Chavez' full development. Last year we obtained full support and cooperation from the Department of Health, Education, and

**DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT**

continued from p. 6

be increased to meet the growing demand of new development. In addition, roads, police, fire protection all need to be keyed into the added population load. Beaverton may not want to do it. But many developers lose money by the hour waiting for the city to let them build. The pressure is on.

There is anxiety in the community that if moratoriums keep building out of the areas which are zoned for development, developers will go elsewhere, to other places which are just as ill-equipped to deal with growth. Although many feel such fears are far fetched, some even feel that the pressure may grow to allow developers to spread out into the rural areas again, to areas which are now protected by zoning ordinances.

Is Washington County's development boom happening at the expense of the community as a whole? Many wonder, but the fact remains that growth is expensive. So expensive, in fact, that according to County records, a new house doesn't pay for itself in taxes unless it is valued at more than \$60,000. This figure varies more or less according to the community, and how well their service systems can handle the extra load of new de-

Welfare after many years of struggle.

With the help of the federal court, our candidate status for accreditation was restored continuously back to 1975 and last month renewed for another year. We look forward to full accreditation soon.

The Colegio's story is a lesson in persistence.

Special thanks are deserved by those who stuck by us. First, the Chicano Community and in particular, the Centro Chicano Cultural, for giving us the financial resources to make this quarter million dollar purchase.

Second, the Presbytery of the Cascades and Tektronix Foundation who helped us complete the funds needed for the \$50,000 cash down payment. Finally, our thanks go to the Oregon Congressional Delegation, Congressman Ullman, AuCoin, and Weaver, and Senators Hatfield and Packwood.

With the agreement we are able to enter a new era in which we can concentrate on the job of providing equal opportunities for anyone desiring a bilingual education. We will continue to need your help to realize this vision. SI SE PUEDE. IT CAN BE DONE. □

velopment.

Although there is much development above the \$60,000 level, a substantial percentage of new housing falls below the mark. And that adds up to increasing tax burdens, which communities may or may not be willing or able to pay.

Can the County afford the level of growth it is experiencing? The figures seem to indicate no. But developers looking for profits say yes. □

**WORKSHOPS COVER  
 SOLAR ENERGY,  
 SIMPLE LIVING**

Summer workshops, sponsored by Nutrition Information Center of Portland, will cover a variety of topics in simple living.

Three weekend workshops will be held at the High Valley Farm in southern Washington where participants will camp. The fees will be \$40 per weekend with meals included. The August schedule includes:

Organic gardening, the scientific and practical aspects, Aug. 5-6. Care of bees, goats and poultry for family needs, Aug. 12-13. Solar energy, including building a solar hot water heater, Aug. 19-20.

For further information contact the Nutrition Information Center, 235-9672. □