

The Rural Tribune

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400 Lose Out in Washington County

Emergency Board Returns Milk Money

The State Emergency Board has turned down a federal program that would provide food for 6900 women and children in Oregon during the next five months. The program, called Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides milk, eggs and cereal for young children and for pregnant or nursing women.

The loss of the program will affect 400 low-income women and children in Washington County. The County Health Department has one of five WIC programs in the state due to receive funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Emergency Board decision turns back \$715,000; but the special session of the full Oregon Legislature may be able to reverse that decision.

Based on information provided by the State Health Division, the Emergency Board feared that it could not enroll enough people in the next few months to spend the full federal grant. Ten per cent of the total funds spent in the state would go to covering the cost of running the program. According to some reports, the Emergency Board was concerned that the ten per cent would not cover the cost of setting up the program. One State Health Division official told The Rural Tribune that the Emergency Board simply did not understand the WIC program.

Harry Kemp, Director of Washington County's Health Department, said that there



Director of Washington County's Health Department, Harry Kemp

would be no problem getting 400 eligible people locally and that there were many more who might be eligible. The County Commissioners have already given approval to hiring a secretary and a half-time nutritionist for the Health Department's WIC program.

Kemp joined with representatives of other WIC-funded programs at a press conference sponsored by Portland's Interagency Welfare Crisis Committee. Bill Collins, who represented the Valley Migrant League, saw no problem spending the full amount of federal funds during the next months. The VML clinic in Woodburn has no problem locating and certifying eligible women and children.

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Food Stamp Program At Only Half Potential

By failing to get information out to people who are eligible for food stamps, the state food stamp program may be violating federal law. Oregon's food stamp program serves only half (51% in October) of those with incomes below poverty level. Although Oregon's "outreach" program has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, the program does not provide for "effective action" in informing poor people of the availability of food stamps.

The state-wide outreach plan:

- depends on one man who devotes only 25 hours a month directly to outreach;
- fails to make special effort to reach ethnic groups as federal guidelines require;
- shifts the prime responsibility for outreach to the state Extension Service — another violation of federal guidelines.

Food stamp director for Oregon, Anthony Cardiello is also responsible for the outreach program. Cardiello speaks quite frankly about what is being done to encourage participation in the food stamp program. "I don't think there's been a hell of a lot done on outreach." He explained that he's been told unofficially by the Department of Agriculture, "Don't get too involved."

And under its approved food stamp outreach plan, Cardiello cannot become too involved. The plan budgets less than \$1000 for the entire state effort.

Other states have inadequate outreach programs — a few have no approved plans at all. But few states are doing as little as Oregon. Florida has budgeted \$19,110 for its outreach effort and has hired two full-time people. South Dakota, with half the population of Oregon, has two and a half staff people working on outreach. Somewhat larger in population than Oregon, the state of Iowa has hired six full-time people.

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Inside The Rural Tribune

• The Beaverton Schools have finally approved a new minority relations policy. Meanwhile, in Forest Grove, teachers are enrolled in a unique minority awareness class. Both stories are on page three.

Welfare Takes Teeth Won't Replace Them

Teeth don't seem to take much priority with Welfare, except when it comes to pulling them. There are several Welfare recipients who have had to have their teeth pulled for medical reasons, only to find that there is no money available from Welfare to pay for dentures.

Besides humiliation, the welfare recipients must also suffer from not getting a proper diet. Recently, a Portland woman was informed by her assistance worker that approval would come to cover the cost of dentures. The woman went ahead with the removal of all her teeth, only to find that Welfare would not pay for dentures. That was a month ago. The woman has lost twenty-five pounds because she is unable to eat food other than baby food and juices.

A Washington County woman had to have her lower teeth pulled five months ago. Because Welfare cannot pay for dentures, she is still without them.

Money for dentures could come out of Welfare's "special needs" budget. But those funds are so tight, that dentures are very low on the list of priorities.

The special session of the Oregon Legislature will be reviewing a Welfare budget for the coming year. If you are concerned about seeing that there are enough funds allowed for special needs, write your state legislators immediately.

Jerralynn Ness

Old Folks at Home

In this youth oriented culture, there is a tendency to avoid thinking about growing old, but like it or not, it is a process that most of us will face.

With our alternatives reduced by poor health and/or poor financial state, we may find it necessary to enter a nursing home situation.

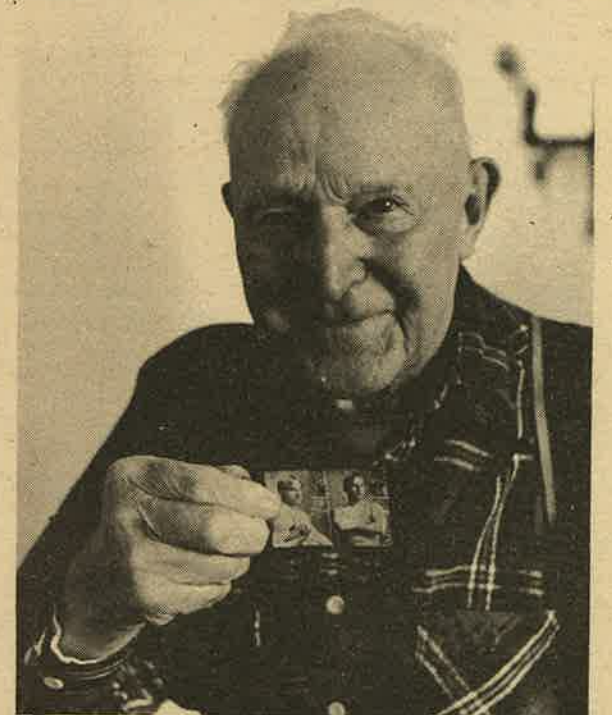
The Rural Tribune visited one such institution to talk to some elderly people who are now living there, and will most likely be spending the rest of their lives in such surroundings.

We were given permission to speak to anyone we wished to, and a nurse took time to introduce us to several patients.

The following is from a conversation with Mr. T., a resident of the facility we visited.

I don't think I had it so good before . . . I'm old you know, almost ninety-two, and I've got no, I just have to be at a place like this. I have no children to take care of me and I have relatives, but you know how relatives are nowadays, the young people, they kick the old ones out, and go ahead and go someplace else.

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Old Folks

(continued from page one)

I don't know, they're treating me good here, they treat me here fine, I'm happy to be here. I suppose I've made lots of friends, strangers even come to see me. I have lots of friends and relatives, I lived here all my life near Hillsboro. I was born on a farm, and I farmed till I retired. Then when I got to be eighty-five, I was still on

the farm, my wife passed away and I bached for two or three or four years after she passed away, then my nieces and nephews put me in the nurses home here. I like it here, I don't know I could be treated better, get plenty to eat and a good bed to sleep in and good nurses to take care of me all the time.

My recreation, I farmed all my life, that was my recreation. I like sports, that's all I read about in the paper. They would play checkers with me, (here), but I don't play checkers.

I'm on relief now, and the doctor comes around whenever they call him. He's been here maybe once a month.

They (welfare) allow me some money for expenses outside of here for clothing and partly for medicines I guess ... 'course I could spend more if I had more, but I don't need money. I have plenty of clothes, I think clothes enough to last me for the rest of my life. I don't intend to live much longer ... I don't know ... They feed me good, I get plenty to eat, I'm satisfied.

Sharon Frahm

Needy Seniors Eligible For Social Security Benefits

According to figures presented by the Special Committee on Aging, approximately twenty per cent of Washington County's senior citizens have incomes below the poverty level.

Although there are over 2,000 elderly poor persons, only a small percentage of these seniors received old age assistance grants from Welfare in 1973.

Since Public Welfare's aid to the blind, disabled, and aged was transferred to the Supplemental Security Income program in January of this year, the number of senior citizens not receiving welfare assistance but eligible for SSI benefits, has not been established yet. SSI is run by the Social Security office, but does not use Social Security funds.

The aim of the SSI program is to provide a basic cash income of \$130 for single persons, and \$195 to married couples who are blind, disabled, or aged.

Any person who is over sixty-five, who has little or no income, and who has personal assets of less than \$1,500, (stocks, bonds, and personal

savings or income are counted; but car, house, furniture, and clothing are not counted), is probably eligible for SSI benefits, and should contact the nearest office of the Social Security Administration to apply.

The Rural Tribune spoke to Ms. Vyvyan Gardner of the Washington County Public Welfare division, and she said that Welfare will continue to provide such services as medical assistance, homemaker services, and some transportation as a needed supplement for seniors.

Welfare has one full-time homemaker who is available to assist eligible seniors with household tasks that they are unable to perform for themselves.

Ms. Gardner said that although Welfare is the only agency currently providing homemaker services, they are meeting the needs of their caseloads pretty well.

Although transportation, even to medical facilities, is a major problem for needy seniors, Ms. Gardner said that Welfare tries to arrange rides for them.

S.F.

THE RURAL TRIBUNE GETS LETTERS

High School Students' Fee Complaints

In last month's edition, Monika Belcher wrote an article about the costs involved in high school home economics courses. She also questioned whether gourmet cooking was as important as learning to cook inexpensive meals. In response to Mrs. Belcher's article, two local students wrote their opinions of school fees.

Dear Mrs. Belcher,

I found your recent article in the paper very interesting. I am a ninth grade student at the Yamhill-Carlton Union High School, and for some time I too have noticed that quite a bit of money is required by the school. Before any student can receive schoolbooks, he or she must have paid a six dollar "book fee." In addition one must pay another mandatory four dollars (for P.E.). Shop and home ec students have to pay additional amounts, in both a basic fee, and for supplies. A student body card costs six dollars, regular insurance takes up another eight, and finally class dues, at least for freshmen, were \$3.50 apiece. The last item, however, was no fault of the administration, as the amount was chosen by the freshmen themselves.

In general, the school administration shows a casual disregard for low income families, by insisting upon repeated payments, in order that their child can receive a "free public education." The school allows students from lower income families to receive free or reduced price lunches, so why not free or reduced price book fees etc. To some extent, however, citizens are to blame. In some areas voters have consistently rejected money for schools, if

they mean higher taxes. This is somewhat understandable though, now that "Nixonomics" have driven many middle income families into the lower income bracket. In conclusion, I very much enjoyed your article about a problem that I think many people face.

Nicholas Kristof
Gaston, Oregon

Dear Mrs. Belcher,

I go to Yamhill-Carlton High School and I'm a friend of Nicholas Kristof. I read your article and I also think that for some families the prices for such things as shop fees, home ec. fees, and book fees are too high. I know that some kids spend up to twenty dollars at the beginning of school for such things as P.E. fees, book fees and other fees that accumulate into a heavy expense for parents. All boys who take shop have to buy a card which costs and is worth five dollars. In the first quarter I know of several boys who went through their card. At the end of the year the amount of money remaining on the card is refunded. The price of lumber is very reasonable and this is not what I think is unfair about the system. The student has to pay for the amount of sandpaper you use. Our shop teacher says we are to use 4 different grades of sandpaper. Each sheet costs twelve cents and so every project you would spend forty-eight cents or more on sandpaper alone. In some cases that is half the cost of your project (small ones).

I don't know much about home economics situation but from what I've seen and heard it is similar to what occurs at your daughter's school. The girls make dishes such as divinity, bon bons, and other such goodies that while good, do not really seem to be what cooking class

in home ec. should be based on. In sewing the girls have to buy their own pattern and fabric for an assigned garment. This would be fair enough if the parent feels the girl needs the garment and it can be afforded. I agree that the cooking unit of home ec. should contain more practical things of cooking.

The P.E. fee is four dollars and it contains, for boys, a jersey and towels. This is used in the upkeep of two big washers and a dryer.

I think lesser privileged

Second Hand Woes

To the Editor:

Millions of dollars worth of goods have been donated over the years to second hand stores, operated by so called, "charitable" enterprises. Over the years the sacred cow institutions continually profess to be helping the poor and needy.

One group of poor and needy includes many who through necessity must patronize these so-called "thrift shops." The fact is that these stores gouge people worse than many profitable tax-paying private bargain stores. When some of these organizations call at your house to pick up donations, they will often refuse to take perfectly good items because they are not good enough for them.

Many good items never reach the shelves and show-cases or see the light of day in their stores. Several questions arise with respect to these stores. How much do these stores actually raise? To what use is this large sum of money applied? Who decides how high to set these ridiculously inflated prices? What taxes, if any, do these retail enterprises pay? How decent are

children or ones from large families should get a reduction in the cost of book fees and P.E. fees, and have an alternate assignment in shop and home ec. such as a report on lumber uses or fashion designs.

Nicholas is writing you also and I hope you have success in your "campaign" against high costing school fees and good use of these fees.

Brett Peloquin
Yamhill, Oregon

Congressman Responds

Recently, Sharon Damrill and Loretta Begin of Gaston wrote their Congressman in support of Washington County Community Action. We print here Congressman Wendell Wyatt's reply:

Dear Friends:

I certainly want to apologize for not sooner responding to your recent letter in behalf of the C.A.P. Office in Hillsboro. It is helpful to me to be advised of the value and professional aspects of the C.A.P. Office in Hillsboro and certainly I will do all I can at the Federal level to see that funds to support the C.A.P. programs are approved.

I am also taking the liberty of bringing your letter to the attention of Governor McCall in order that he may be advised of your support of the C.A.P. program.

Sincerely,
Wendell Wyatt
Member of Congress

the wages received by the employees?

I believe two proposals ought to be considered: 1.) Give poor people at the poverty level a better break on pricing; 2.) Give a full public disclosure of the financial transactions of each store. I am sure if people knew who was helping who, they would donate more salvagable goods.

John D. Luker
Hillsboro

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

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

Beaverton Board Buys Proposal

The Beaverton School System adopted a new minority relations policy last month. Without a single dissenting vote, the school board at its second January meeting approved a policy prepared by a board-appointed committee of teachers, parents and citizens, including two members of the school board itself.

A draft of the minority policy was printed in last month's Rural Tribune, and, with a few small changes, that version still stands. The policy attempts to make awareness of minority groups part of the curriculum in the largely white and middle-class Beaverton system. The policy asks for steps to create an atmosphere of respect for cultural differences. It requires that the district examine teaching materials to be sure that they fairly describe the history of ethnic groups in American society.

One last-minute change in the policy came at the suggestion of the Beaverton Education Association's executive board. The BEA recommended that the contributions of women in our society also be considered in selecting instructional material — adding weight to the policy's

requirement that the district "make efforts to eliminate institutional discrimination and sexual stereotyping."

Even though one of the two board members who served on the committee seemed uncomfortable with all the attention given to the rights of women ("A girl ought to be a girl," he said at one of the committee meetings), there was hardly a false note at the decisive board meeting. The audience was swelled by a large turn-out of disgruntled teachers, there to protest their problems negotiating a new contract with the school board. And the crowd roared with approval at the teacher association's suggestion about women's rights.

Superintendent Boyd Applegarth joined in support of the proposed policy, making a few, very minor changes in the wording. He pledged to develop a plan for implementing the policy and reported that the district "may be able to begin in-service (training) activities for some administrators in the spring, 1974." And in private meetings, Applegarth was giving assurances that this new minority relations policy would be backed by his office.

Applegarth seemed to be answering the question that policy supporters were asking — would the school district



implement the new policy? Almost three years ago, the first minority group relations policy was approved by the Beaverton School Board. When the policy was evaluated last fall, board member Nancy Ryles pointed out that the district's administration had done little to implement the old policy. Ryles wanted to hold on to the original policy, but force the adminis-

tration to do something about it.

Many of those who testified at both January meetings of the school board, shared board member Ryles' feelings. John Tally of the American Indian Movement

commented that the new policy was a "good piece of paper," but added, "We need to see the good faith shown." So many of those who testified expressed concern that Board Chairman Richard Kipp felt compelled to say that there was "little doubt in my mind that we're going to implement it" — at the meeting two weeks before the policy was voted on.

The policy task force made several recommendations on how the policy could be implemented, among them:

- That minority group representatives be included in reviewing new curriculum materials.

- That teachers be exchanged with other districts so that teachers and students can have contact with teachers of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

- That affirmative action be taken to recruit minority teachers.

- That a citizen's advisory committee be appointed to help implement the policy.

- That a staff person be hired to implement and support the human relations policy.

Until Superintendent Applegarth gives his first progress report, on either February 25 or March 11, no one is quite sure just how far the Beaverton Schools will go in acting on the new policy. This minority group policy, like the last, still depends on Board commitment if it is to bring about change in the schools. Board member Ryles summed up her position, "I like this new policy, but, of course, I like the old policy. I was concerned about implementation of the old policy, and I'm concerned about implementation of this policy." P.S.J.

Forest Grove Teachers Learn . . .

'Prejudice' - Nobody Wins at This Game

The Forest Grove and Cornelius schools have been trying to eliminate the high drop out rate among their Chicano population. At present the district is offering a college credit course for teachers and administrators called *A Multi-Ethnic Curriculum* taught by Troy Horton. From the eight schools represented in District 15 the Principals have chosen from two to four teachers from each school to take the class.

Horton introduces curriculum that the teachers can use in practically every class. The curriculum consists of exercises that explain and deal with racism, prejudice, and discrimination in simple form.

One such exercise is called the String Game, which makes it impossible not to discriminate against part of the group. Then when the exercise is finished the instructors ask how it feels to be discriminated against.

This game was first tried on the teachers that took the class. Some of the teachers were happy while others, the ones who got the short end of



attending a school that is not sensitive to his needs he will feel the same way. Only it won't be a game. He also stated that in some classes that he has done the exercises he has found some students that just sit down and quit or others who get up and wreck the whole game and explain their actions by "If I can't win then nobody wins."

This, Horton explains, is pretty much the frustrations

these words in an exercise form and while doing this clears any misinformation that they had before while at the same time teaching them the meanings.

These exercises or units are then taken back by the representatives of the schools and explained to other teachers who will in turn use them in their classrooms. Horton explains that teachers will accept different curriculum

include visiting the Centro Cultural and CAP office of Washington County. There they will find out what these two centers offer to help the Chicanos and poor of the county.

The school district hired a Chicano vocational technical assistant who devotes 50% of his time to working with all students in vocational areas such as shop, wood and mechanics and other vocational areas in the high school. The other 50% of his job is spent counseling Chicano students and other students who are having trouble with grades and attendance. His name is Hector Hinojosa and he said, "Parent involvement is the backbone to the kid's education and setting up a meaningful educational pro-

gram for the students are the two keys to success." Hinojosa plans to make regular visits to the parents of the students he works with, and will work closely with them.

Hinojosa got most of his counseling experience at Portland Residential Manpower where he has worked for three years as a counselor and as a Manpower student for one year. He attended Portland State for one and a half years. Hinojosa is also beginning programs in career development and advice in preparation for college. He helps get students jobs in fields of interest.

Staff members of the Centro Cultural have said the Cornelius School teachers have expressed the desire to take Spanish classes at the Centro. The need for more teachers in Cornelius to know Spanish is great, since one third of the student body is Chicano. Out of these 80 Chicano students, there are about 10 students who know little or no English. At the moment there is a full time bilingual Chicano teacher and two aides teaching in Cornelius grade school.

The high school Chicano students have started a Chicano club called La Raza Mia. According to Hinojosa the students wanted this club because they wanted to learn more about their ethnic background. He is helping them get started and contributed his office once a week as a meeting room. Hinojosa is currently looking for films about la Raza for the students. Amador Aguirre



the rewards offered in the exercise felt they weren't justly rewarded and explained that no matter how hard they tried they couldn't get ahead in the game.

Horton explained that when a minority student is

felt by minority students in every day classes. There are also other exercises that deal with definitions of words such as racism, integrate, assimilate, patronize, separate, and desegregate. This makes all students define

from other teachers they know better than from a teacher who is a complete stranger.

Further assignments to help teachers better understand the minorities and their cultures in the community



Hector Hinojosa



Local Family Gets Food Stamps After Three Day Wait

The Rural Tribune received several complaints during the first and second week of January concerning the conditions at the Food Stamp Center. Families are forced to wait for long periods and are refused permission to use the center rest rooms and drinking water. Some families have had to wait days for certification, even though their cases are emergencies, and the state rules require emergencies to be handled within twenty-four hours.

A Chicano family from Forest Grove, had an appointment for the second of January. Since her husband did not receive his check until the fifth, she called in to the Food Stamp Office notifying them that she wouldn't be able to make her appointment. The receptionist told her she'd make another appointment. That appointment wasn't until the 18th of January.

This woman felt that she

couldn't wait until the 18th, because she was out of groceries and wouldn't be able to feed her children properly. Her husband received his check on the fifth which was on a Saturday, and sent his wife in the following Monday, January 7th. This woman didn't have any transportation so she got one of her friends to drive her in. They were there at the Food Stamp Center all day Monday until 5 o'clock. She left without being certified. The following day the woman and her friend went in at 7:35 a.m., one of those cold mornings when the temperature was below freezing. One of the employees of the Food Stamp Center unlocked the door, went in, and closed the door on the two women, who were left to stand outside in the cold. After a while two other employees arrived and that's when they were able to enter the center, at 8 o'clock a.m.

The woman who was applying for food stamps was told that she would be seen around ten o'clock that morning.

At ten, she still wasn't seen. She was then told that she would be seen around two o'clock. At two o'clock she still wasn't seen. Five o'clock came, and after her second full day, nine and a half hours of waiting, she still was not seen. After two days of waiting having eaten only a coke and potato chips on the first day and nothing at all on the second, the woman was feeling ill. She was told that she should come the next day, early again, and maybe she would get to be seen. The third day came. She was taken in by the same friend. She still hadn't been seen by 9:30 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., her friend got up and talked to the receptionist, explaining that the woman was very sick, and that she didn't have any transportation. At 10

o'clock, the woman was finally seen and certified.

According to the state rules for welfare or food stamps, emergency cases should be seen within twenty-four hours. Bonnie Caton, who directs the welfare and food stamp programs here, explains that emergency cases were to be handled within twenty-four hours. But in this case, the woman notified the receptionist on the first day that her case was an emergency. Yet, she was not seen until the third day at the Food Stamp Center.

When I talked to the woman and her friend, who were both Chicanas, they told me that they felt discriminated against. They were the only Chicanas in the waiting area, and a number of Anglo persons were ahead of them and were certified that very same day.

Lou Rice, who works for the County's Expanded Food and Nutrition Extension Program (EFNEP), often takes

families to the Food Stamp Center. In that same week in January, Ms. Rice took two families in to be certified at the Food Stamp Center. One of these two families was interviewed by the Rural Tribune and their story is on this page.

Ms. Rice was angry at the way these families were treated. Both families had small children with them while they waited and Ms. Rice couldn't stand seeing the hungry, and tired children waiting around all day — without being able to use bathroom or drinking water facilities.

Lou Rice has written an open-letter to the Washington County Commissioners complaining about the conditions at the Food Stamp Center. She wonders why the center staff can refuse people the use of the office rest room during that long wait for food stamp certification.

Alma Rosa Perez

Familia Recibe Estampillas, Tres Dias Despues

El Rural Tribune recibió varias quejas en la primer y segunda semanas de enero tratándose de las condiciones de el Food Stamp Center. Familias han sido forçadas a esperar mucho tiempo y son negados en usar el cuarto de descanso y la agua para tomar. Unas familias han tenido que esperar varios dias para ser certificados aunque sean casos de emergencia, y las leyes del estado requieren que los casos de emergencias sean tratados dentro de veinte cuatro horas.

dia siguiente la señora con su amiga fueron a las 7:35 de la mañana, unas de esas mañanas cuando la temperatura estaba abajo de congelación. Una de las empleadas de la oficina de estampillas desatranco la puerata, se metió para adentro, y sero la puerta en las dos señoras, y se quedaron afuera en el frio. Despues de rato, que llegaron dos empleadas mas, fue cuando se metieron para adentro, y eran las ocho de la mañana.

La señora que iba a pedir

que esa señora estaba muy mala y que ella no tenia transportacion. A las diez de la mañana, por fin la vieron y la certificaron para sus estampillas.

Segun las reglas del estado, para el Welfare y las Food Stamps, los casos de emergencia deben de ver sido tratados dentro de veinte y cuatro horas.

Bonnie Caton, que directa el Welfare y las Food Stamps, explicó que los casos de emergencia deben de ver sido tratados dentro de 24 horas. Pero en este caso, la señora la aviso a la recepcionista, el primer dia que ese caso era de emergencia. Y haci, toda via no la habian visto hasta el tercer dia en el centro de las estampillas.

Cuando yo hablé con la señora y su amiga, que eran las dos Mexicanas, me dijeron que se sintían que habían sido discriminadas. Ellas eran las unicas Chicanas hayí esperando, y un numero de personas Anglos en frente de ellas, eran certificados ese mismo dia.

Lou Rice, que trabaja con el Expanded Food and Nutrition Extension Program (EFNEP), muy seguido lleva familias al centro de las estampillas. En esa misma semana de enero, la señora Rice llevo dos familias para que sean certificadas en el centro de estampillas. Una de estas familias habló con el Rural Tribune y su historia esta en esta pagina.

La señora Rice estaba muy enojada como fueron tratadas en esa oficina. Las dos familias tenian niños chicos con ellos cuando estaban esperando, y la señora Rice no podia ver a los niños chiquitos tener hambre, estar cansados, y esperar todo el dia sin poder usar el cuarto de descanso y sin tomar agua.

Lou Rice ha escrito una carta habiérta (open-letter) a los comisionados del condado de Washington, explicandoles las condiciones de la oficina de estampillas. Ella pregunta que como pueden los empleados de las estampillas negar el uso de esos servicios publicos, mientras que se esperan tanto para sus estampillas.

A. R. P.

Walk-In To A Long Wait

One of the families that Lou Rice took to the food stamp center was interviewed by the Rural Tribune. This is what that woman had to say about the Washington County Food Stamp Center on her interview:

I called to make an appointment, but was told that the appointment wouldn't be until February 18th. It was too far past the point of where I could feed my kids properly. Because my husband hadn't worked since the 24th of December, then we just didn't have any money to feed the kids.

They told us it would be better to come in as a walk-in. That's that I did, I went in there, there were several of us that went in that same day quite by accident, really, but I got there at 8 o'clock cause they told us the best thing to do is to get there at eight and go as walk-ins to be seen in-between appointments.

As it ended up at noon we still hadn't been seen as walk-ins, as of noon. There was around four interviewers and only one man and one woman were the ones who were doing all the interviews. The other interviewers were just taking their time as far as I was concerned and most of the time they'd walk out front and get a cup of coffee and stand around to talk with the other people out front. And then they'd pick up a case and kept on walking back and forth and really to me, they didn't seem like they were that busy. Then there were several cancelations but they did not work any walk-ins in.

We sat there, and at that time here in North Plains we could not get any gas at all. North Plains was completely out of gas. To get gas you had to go into Hillsboro and wait in a line and then if you were lucky you'd get gas. But as it was we couldn't get any so several of us got together and went in, so we didn't feel like coming back to North Plains from Hillsboro to feed the kids and we didn't have the time or the money to do.

We stayed there and they wouldn't let the children use the rest room. I asked them if the kids could use the bathroom and that day was cold and windy and the kids had to walk a block and a half from the redemption center there from Maple and they had to walk down by Burgerville to go to the bathroom at the service station which closed at about 2 o'clock and they wouldn't let the children have any water. I went and asked them for a drink and they said no, it wasn't for public use so we either had to go up and buy it or go to the service station where the water was already frozen up.

I went in with Lou Rice and told her it was an emergency so she told me she would take me in because I had never been there before, I mean I had applied once before but we were a little over the amount and I felt that I needed them because my children were going hungry.

My littles girl wasn't feeling good and she was hungry and tired and she had to go to the bathroom quite often.

I just felt that it was entirely unfair to the children. It didn't bother me to sit that much because I knew that you do have to wait and that you don't get seen immediately but I felt that it was unfair for them to have to put my children through that. That's what bothered me most, to put them through that long wait.

They said that the water, restroom or coffee was only for state and official use only and not for public use. They said we'd have to go elsewhere to get those facilities.

There was a man that came in after we did, so we talked to him. He said he was coming in as a walk-in. He went up front and talked to one of the guys and pretty soon one of the guys came up front and called him back. Now to me it seemed as if it was more or less like a "I know you pal type thing", I'll get you in ahead of the rest of them. This is just the way I felt. Several of us knew he came in as a walk-in and we felt it was rather unfair.

Dear County Commissioners:

I realize that this is a time of shortage — but why bathrooms and drinking water?

Or is this a shortage only reserved for the poor and the elderly?

Can you tell me why a family that has lost their job and have no money for food for their three children, is expected to sit in the food stamp certification office with two little children for eight and a half hours with the closest bathroom a service station one and a half blocks away that closed at 2 p.m. due to the gas shortage?

You with your beautiful new office and bathrooms — do you feel that just because you are poor, bathrooms and drinking water is a luxury?

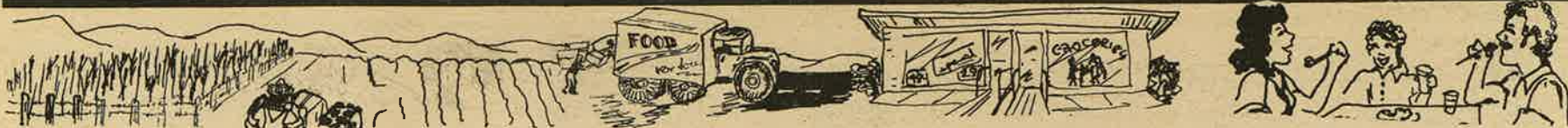
Lou Rice
North Plains

Una familia Chicana de Forest Grove, tenia una cita para el dia segundo de enero. Como su esposo no recibia su cheque hasta el cinco, ella les llamo a la oficina de estampillas diciendoles que no iba a poder ir a su cita. La recepcionista le dijo a la señora que le iba a poner otra cita. Esa cita no iba hacer hasta el 18 de enero.

Esta señora se sintió que no podia esperarse hasta el 18 del mez porque ya no tenia comida en su casa y no iba a poder alimentar a su familia bien. Su esposo recibio el cheque el dia cinco que era un Sabado, y mando a su esposa el lunes que era el siete de enero. Esta mujer no tenia nada de transportación haci es que ella le hablo a una amiga para que la llevara. La señora y su amiga estubieron en la oficina de las estampillas todo el dia el Lunes hasta las cinco de la tarde. Se fue para su casa sin ser certificada. El

las estampillas dijo que le dijeron que probablemente la iban a ver a las diez, esa misma mañana.

A las diez, toda via no la habian visto, Despues le dijeron que la iban a ver para las dos de la tarde. A los dos, toda via no la habian visto. A las cinco de la tarde toda via no la habian visto, y despues de su segundo dia, nueve y media horas, toda via no la habian visto, Despues de dos dias de estar esperando y nomas comido unas potato chips, en el primer dia y nada en el sugundo, la señora se sentia enferma. Le dijieron las empleadas que debia de venir el dia siguiente, otra vez temprano y probablemente la certificaban. El tercer dia llevo, y la misma amiga la llevo. Toda via no la habian visto para las nueve de la mañana. A las nueve y media de la mañana, su amiga se levanto y hablo con la recepcionista, explicandole



Women, Infants, Children

(continued from page one)

Oregon is the only state in the nation to turn away WIC funds. The Emergency Board has asked for a study of the program and intends to apply for funding for next year. But, according to Robert Greenstein of the Community Nutrition Institute, Oregon will probably have trouble getting funds. Since money is limited, states already receiving funds will be in the best position for funding next year.

Oregon had very little notice that it was getting the WIC funds. The Department of Agriculture was holding back the money that Congress appropriated, until a

federal court ordered spending to go ahead. By November only twenty local grants in the nation had been approved by a poorly-staffed office in Washington, D.C. More court action loosened the jam, and by the end of December, Oregon's five WIC programs were approved.

In January, local clinics in Washington, Multnomah, Marion and Lincoln Counties and the VML clinic in Woodburn began certifying low-income women and children. Each clinic would have issued vouchers to mothers and expectant mothers. The vouchers would be turned in at stores in exchange for

milk, infant formula, juice, cereal and eggs.

The Interagency Welfare Crisis Committee and others are urging the special session of the legislature to restore the WIC program. The Ways and Means Committee, which sets the agenda for the February 11th special session, is investigating WIC. The Rural Tribune has been assured that the WIC program will be considered at the special session.

Readers interested in saving the Women, Infants and Children program in Washington County should write their State Senators and Representatives immediately. P.S.J.

Food Stamps

(continued from page one)

The Oregon plan was the second submitted to the Department of Agriculture. The first plan included a full-time director and twelve full-time "outreach technicians." It would have taken \$120,000 to fund the program — 62% would have come from federal funds, 37% from the state. No one seems to be able to explain why the plan was turned down by the Department of Agriculture.

For the next year and a half, Oregon had no approved outreach program — in violation of federal regulations again. During the same period, the number of people participating in the food stamp and abundant food programs stabilized — declining slightly each spring from 1971 levels.

The new outreach plan was accepted last April. It has produced no television or radio spots and made no special attempt to communicate with ethnic groups. The first and rejected plan called for television and radio spots in English, Spanish and Russian.

Food stamp director Cardiello is open about his priorities. "I'm supposed to be so-called outreach director along with my other job... I think we should have a full-time person." He describes his "other job" as hectic. "For two years it's been an absolute nightmare to run this program." There have been computer changes, a transition from abundant foods to state-wide food stamps, and a constant flood of new federal regulations. "We're trying to rewrite the whole cotton-picking (food stamp) manual... We've had to say (to the Department of Agriculture), 'Damn it, it's unclear.' This too is part of outreach when you think about it."

Cardiello and his staff argue that any effort to improve food stamp procedures is outreach, because those changes encourage participation in the program. And Cardiello admits that there have been serious problems in the certifying of food stamp users.

Some of those problems have discouraged people from using food stamps. Of those participating in Oregon's food stamp program, 76% must return to the food stamp center once a month, or more often, for recertification. Cardiello showed me the statistics for Jackson County, where 99% of food stamp participants are certified for a

month or less — half of those have to come back to their food stamp center every two weeks for recertification.

Cardiello and his staff are working to change that. He predicts the day will come when "no one will be certified for less than three months." That would ease the work-load of certifiers, and could cut waiting time for certification to no more than eight hours, according to Cardiello.

Training of certifiers is another problem. "The training is limited to one day," Cardiello told me. "Look at this manual... there's no way you can train someone (in one day)."

The state food stamp staff is predicting an increase in participation in the program this year. The Department of Agriculture has raised income levels on eligibility, allowing more people into the program. An expanded staff of certifiers and clerks and cutting of red tape should make it easier than it has been to apply for food stamps.

And Cardiello is promising to eliminate bugs in the computer that have overcharged many recipients for their foodstamps. (No one knows how many recipients have been overcharged.)

But how do people hear about changes in the program? Apparently most of the effort in Oregon is left to the Extension Service. "Right from the beginning," Cardiello explained, "we have had a sort of outreach program with the Extension Service." He feels that a lot of staff time is also outreach, even if its effect is indirect. "You can't even tell... we get a call from the Extension Services, we're talking about outreach. Ken, Gene and Bob, when they go out, that's outreach too... Every time Mrs. Stein (of the State Health Division) calls, that's outreach. We don't have a tag on how much time they put in."

Outreach depends heavily on the Extension Service, but Cardiello admitted that he does not know what the Extension Service is doing. "They may be doing a lot more than I'm aware of."

But federal guidelines say, "Under no circumstances can the State Agency be relieved of the prime outreach responsibility." And Cardiello says that his department within Public Welfare has its hands full with other problems.

There is no push by Welfare to bring more people into the food stamp program. Part of the reason is cost. The

Department of Agriculture will pick up 62% of the cost of an outreach worker. But it pays nothing toward the cost of issuing and storing food stamp coupons. The state and counties must share in these administrative expenses. If more people are brought into the program, state and local costs will rise.

Oregon, like many other states, has balked at spending money on outreach. The Welfare department would like to leave the responsibility with the Extension Service. But when the Oregon State University Extension Service tried to get lists of those on public assistance, Welfare denied the Extension people access to the names. In fact, the names of people on public assistance are public information. And in Oregon, 25% of those who are on public assistance and eligible for food stamps, are not in the food stamp program.

Cardiello puts part of the blame on the Department of Agriculture. "Frankly, I think their attitude is don't go stirring up more than you have to."

Two federal courts are now considering cases that could have a dramatic effect on foodstamp programs. A case was brought to a California court to protest the fact that there has been no outreach program in California at all. In Minnesota, a public interest law firm is suing the Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, for failing to spend \$300 million in food stamp money appropriated by Congress. The suit claims that costs are too high for stamps and that too little has been done to reach needy families. The suit stopped the return of the \$300 million to the federal Treasury and may lead to a new emphasis on encouraging eligible families to apply for foodstamps.

As I left my interview with food stamp director Cardiello, I was given a copy of an article about low rates of participation in food stamp programs. The study found that in Nebraska the greatest reason given for not using the program was "lack of information about the program and one's eligibility for it." The study concluded, "Potential users must be informed that they are eligible and what the benefits of the program are."

Federal rules require that potential users be informed; but in Oregon there is no real program for being certain that they are.

Paul S. Jacobs

County Nutrition Fair

Are you worried about food prices? Are you worried about food value or if what you're buying is nutritional? Have you been comparing food prices?

The Washington County Nutrition Council along with the Oregon Nutrition Council will have a Nutrition Fair in Forest Grove. The fair will take place on the 5th of March at the Power and Light Auditorium, also called the Municipal Auditorium, in Forest Grove.

There will be exhibits open to the public from noon until 4 p.m. Booths will be held from various organizations. Food Stamps will have a display; the Health Department and the Oregon Dairy

Council will have a film; Washington County Dental Auxiliary will have a dental health exhibit.

A Chicano Ethnic Nutrition Booth will also be at the fair. The two women in charge of this booth are Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Maria Villareal, who work with the Washington County Nutrition Council. There will also be exhibits from many other different organizations.

The Community Action Program will furnish a bus for transportation for the people who live out in the country. People who wish to participate, but who don't have transportation, contact the Community Action Program (CAP) at 648-6646. A.R.P.

NEWS FROM V.S.I.

For anyone interested in stretching their food dollar, the V.S.I. Food Co-op in Tualatin offers quite a saving. There are other benefits, too. The "country store" atmosphere and the friendly people who man V.S.I. turn the weekly shopping chore into a pleasant experience.

The third Saturday in each month is set aside for Cracker Barrel Day when prominent people of the area come to share ideas and information. Senator Betty Roberts launched the first Cracker Barrel Day with a question and answer session followed by the judging of a cake and pie contest. In December, Representative Pat Whiting talked about safe toys for children. Representative Ralph Groener is scheduled to speak soon on the energy crisis and related issues.

The Mustard Seed, the craft shop at V.S.I., is open on Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. The crafts and handiwork sold there are taken on consignment from

Nell Willoughby, V.S.I. Co-Op, Tualatin

HOPE CO-OP NEWS

With the steady increase in food prices these days, bargains are valuable. That is just what the Hope Neighborhood Co-op in Buxton offers. The Hope Co-op was founded a few years ago with the help of a federal grant. At that time the Co-op went through many changes before it settled in Buxton.

In 1972, the Co-op moved into the former Buxton Mercantile, a large building that once furnished the railroad settlement of Buxton with a variety of necessities. Since the closure of the railroads through Buxton, the Mercantile dissolved leaving the building vacant. The Co-op found the building to provide spacious shopping in a country environment and has since flourished.

The Co-op's objectives are to provide healthy foods at modest prices. This may be accomplished by buying commodities at bulk rate and allowing the customers to package the desired quantity. The Co-op specializes in fresh vegetables, staples, and some

dairy products. Up until 1974, the Co-op was in part financed by federal fundings but has recently become independent. Now the Co-op depends, in part, upon a \$10.00 membership which entitles the member life-time shopping at a 10% discount. In order to maintain the Co-op, the members donate a few hours a month of free labor. Other financing comes from profit on items sold, much of the profit comes from non-member shopping as the Co-op is open to all.

There are a variety of events throughout the year for members. There is a monthly pot-luck dinner and there are occasional festive gatherings. The Hope Neighborhood Co-op is looking forward to a fruitful year. Feel free to come by and shop.

Hope Neighborhood Co-op
Location: Buxton, Oregon. On Highway 26 by Forest Grove.

Hours: Thursday 5-9, Friday 1-9, Saturday 10-6.

Hope Co-Op, Buxton

VML: The Case of the Missing Proposal

Thirteen months ago, the Valley Migrant League of Forest Grove submitted a proposal to the county government for revenue sharing funds. Revenue sharing is federal money allocated to local governments for them to use as they see fit. The Valley Migrant League was the first of several social service organizations to apply for the new county funds.

After not hearing from the Washington County Commissioners for several months, Juan Martinez, area supervisor for VML, made an appointment to meet with Dan Potter who is County Administrator and in charge of receiving and reviewing proposals for the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

In July, Louis Ramirez of VML, met with Potter and was told that the proposal had not reached Potter's desk and that he did not know anything about the proposal, but that he would check on it

and make his reply to Valley Migrant League, Potter had recently been hired as administrator for the county. There was no further correspondence between the two offices for several weeks and no results of the July meeting.

In August, Martinez again spoke to Potter (often having much trouble getting through to him). The local VML leader asked what progress the County Administrator's office had made on the proposal. According to Martinez, Potter said he would check and follow up on the proposal and would keep in touch with Valley Migrant League. Potter said he was a very busy man and that was his reason for not contacting the Valley Migrant League on the proposal.

A month later, Martinez tried to reach Potter who did not return his call. It was October before the VML supervisor reached the County Administrator. The VML was told that their proposal

had not been taken out of files and so never considered for revenue funding. The County Administrator told Juan Martinez that he would check on the reason and on possible funding.

I met with Dan Potter in January, after VML sent the county a letter and a copy of a new proposal. VML had no response to its latest letter or to last October's phone call. Mr. Potter explained that he was appointed to administer the county after the date revenue sharing proposals were due. When Potter came into office, he did not know of the VML proposal. He said he would be responding to VML's latest proposal and had a letter ready on his desk, "I am a very busy man," he said.

At this writing, VML has received a letter which acknowledges that the proposal for revenue sharing funds has been received and will be considered.

Lorenzo Hernandez

VML: El Caso del Proposito Perdido

Trece meses pasados, la Valley Migrant League sometio un proposito al gobierno del condado por acción en fondos de Revenue Sharing. Fondos de Revenue Sharing es dinero federal alocado al gobierno local para utilizarse lo mejor que ellos ven. La Valley Migrant League fue la primera de varias organizaciones de servicio social que aplico por los nuevos fondos del condado.

Despues de no oír de los commissioned de el condado de Washington por varios meses, Juan Martinez, area Supervisor por VML, nombro una cita con Dan Potter que es Administrador del Condado y en cargo de recibir y repasar propositos por la mesa de Commissionados de el Condado de Washington.

Durante el mes de Julio, Luis Ramirez de VML, se entrevistó con Potter y le dijo que el proposito no había llegado a su mesa y que el no sabia nada de el proposito,

pero que se enformaría y le dava su contestacion al VML. Potter abia sido ocupado recientemente, como administrador del condado. No abia mas correspondencia entre las dos oficinas por varios semanas y ningunos resultados de la junta del mes de Julio.

En Agosto, Martinez hablo de vuelta con Potter. (Seguido teniendo problemas para comunicarse con el). El supervisor de VML pregunto que progreso abia tenido la oficina de Administracion del condado tocante el proporsal. Asegun Martinez, Potter dijo que el se informará de el proposito y luego se comunicara con VML. Potter dijo que el era un hombre de mucha ocupacion y esa fue su razon por no contactar al VML en lo de el proporsal.

Un mes despues, Martinez trato de hablar con Potter, quien no devolvio su llamado. Era Octubre para cuando VML pudo hablar con el administrador del Condado. Se le dijo a VML que su

proposito no había sido sacado de "las files", y nunca se considero por fondos de Revenue Sharing. El Administrador del condado le dijo a Juan Martinez que el vería en alludar con fondos.

Yo me entrevisté con Dan Potter en el mes de Enero, despues que VML mandó al condado una carta y una copia de un nuevo proporsal. VML no tuvo respuesta a su ultima carta o a la llamada de Octubre. Señor Potter explico que el fue apuntado para administrador del condado despues que el proporsal habia sido sumetido. Cuando Potter entro a oficina, el no sabia de el proporsal de VML. El dijo que iba a contestar a VML su ultimo proporsal y tenia una carta lista en su mesa, "Yo soy un hombre muy ocupado," dijo el.

A este tiempo VML a recibido una carta que nos hace saber que el proporsal para Ingresos de fondos a cido recevida y va hacer considerada.

L.H.

AT THE CENTRO

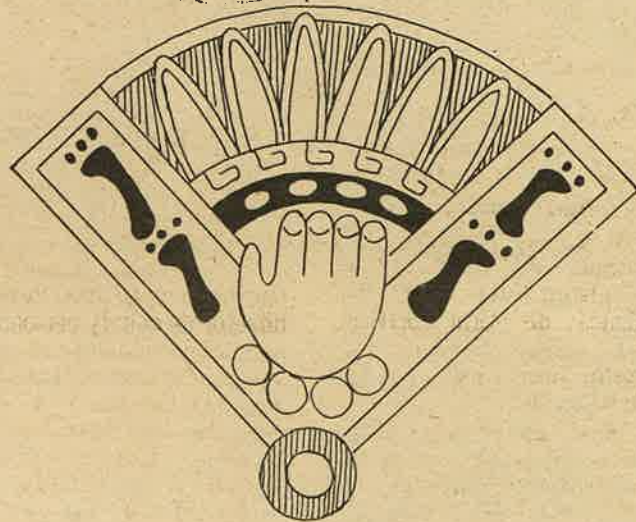
The Centro Cultural of Washington County begins this new column as an additional means for community involvement between Chicano and Anglo people. Ideas, activities, opinions, needs, complaints, etc. may be presented by anyone through the Centro. Founded in May 1972 by a few Chicano families, the Centro works at broadening understandings, equalities, and cultural awareness between both English and Spanish speaking members of the county.

Through our educational program, work experience, and community involvement, we hope to present more opportunities for low-income individuals. Welfare, food stamps, pension, and social security problems are also worked on by the Centro Cultural. Its future functioning as a sounding board for Chicano needs in the county school systems, hopes to increase appreciation of the Chicano culture.

Any participation in the Centro is encouraged and wanted, be it in writing an article or poem, attending classes, enjoying activities, presenting needs, holding meetings, discussing misunderstandings, etc. This non-profit organization works from the people for the people. For any additional information or questions please call 648-4815. The present schedule of classes and activities is the following:

Sewing class	Tues., 7-9 p.m.	United Methodist Church 2213 18th St. Forest Grove
Spanish class	Tues., 7-9 p.m.	United Methodist Church 2213 18th St. Forest Grove
English class	Tues., Wed., 7-9 p.m.	Centro Cultural N. Adair & 11th St. Cornelius
G.E.D.	Wed., 7-9 p.m.	Centro Cultural N. Adair & 11th St. Cornelius
Personal Development	Beginning Wed. Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. For women 18 yrs. & older	Centro Cultural
Pottery, Art & Typing	to be offered soon for those 14 yrs. & older	
Fund-raising Mexican Dinner	Sunday, Feb. 10, 12-6 p.m.	United Church of Christ 494 E. Main Hillsboro

Patty Houts, Centro Cultural, Cornelius



EN EL CENTRO

El Centro Cultural del condado de Washington esta empezando esta columna nueva como una manera adicional de tener interaccion entre los Chicanos y los Anglos de esta comunidad. Las ideas, actividades, opiniones, necesidades, quejas, etc. pueden ser presentados por todos Uds. por el Centro. El Centro fue fundado en mayo 1972 por unas familias chicanas y funciona para amentar los intendimientos, las igualdades, y el enterado cultural entre la gente que habla espanol y ingles.

Por nuestro programa de educacion el entremiento de trabajo y el envolviendo de la comunidad esperamos presentar mas oportunidades para gente de low-income. El Centro tambien tiene algo que ver con las problemas del welfare, food stamps, pensiones, y social security. Asi que el Centro va a funcionar para presentar las necesidades de los Chicanos a las escuelas del condado. Esperamos amentar apreciacion de la cultura chicana.

Queremos su participacion en el Centro, sea en escribir un articulo o poema, asistir en las clases, participando en las actividades, presentando sus necesidades, en tener juntas aqui, discutiendo malas interpretaciones, etc. Esta organizacion funciona de la gente para la gente. Para informacion adicional o preguntas, por favor llama al numero de telefono 648-4815.



Amador Aguirre has been voted chairman of the board of the Centro Cultural of Washington County. Also elected to the board were Diana Soliz, Fred Garza, Gonzala Lira, Joe Lopez, Lilly Garcia, and Oswaldo Hinojosa.

Colegio Cesar Chavez Closure Threatened



Students at Cesar Chavez College in Mt. Angel are shown in a class on community organization. The school is threatened by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is demanding payment on a loan from the days when the school was called Mt. Angel College.

Utilities: Shutting Off and Turning On

An elderly couple died in Schenectady, New York, this winter during the freezing weather when their electricity was shut off by the electric company. That incident happened far away but it makes us wonder if it could ever happen here.

To answer that question, we talked to the office of Public Utilities Commissioner. There is no provision in Oregon to prevent a utility from shutting off the utilities from its customers even when the customers are very old, very young, or very sick.

According to Mrs. Robin Wallace, (Information Officer for the Office of the Utility Commissioner) none of the states in the union have any provisions to prevent shutting off utilities under these circumstances. The problem of shutting off utilities has been brought up in the rate cases in Salem, but nothing has been decided so far.

The incident brings us to what the procedures are for shutting off the utilities. The Rural Tribune called local utility companies to find out what those procedures are.

The Northwest Natural Gas Company has these procedures for shutting off the gas. The Rural Tribune spoke with Mr. Gould (Public Relations) and was given this

example, of the procedures for shutting off gas.

December 12 ... The meter is read.

January 11 ... Again the meter is read.

January 17 ... Bill is mailed stating it is due on the 29th.

If bill isn't paid by the 29th.

February 5 ... A reminder notice is made up.

February 11 ... This notice is sent.

February 13 ... Customer receives the notice and it is marked URGENT payment due at 5 o'clock February 19th.

If payment isn't mailed or paid:

February 21 ... Collection slip is prepared.

February 22 ... Discontinuance of service takes place.

It is approximately seventy-five days after meter is first read. The Rural Tribune notes that this is only a little over thirty days from when the customer receives the first bill.

There are some reasons taken into consideration, Mr. Gould said, if there are sick members in the family, or a tragedy in the house, or if there are small sick children in the house. In order for the gas company to allow delay, the customer has to call or go in to talk to the credit

manager at the Northwest Natural Gas Company. Mr. Gould says that he's sure something can be worked out for making a payment.

The deposit for houses and apartments in Hillsboro are different. For the houses it is a thirty dollar deposit and for apartments it is twenty dollars. For poor people who don't have the full amount of money to open the service but who need it immediately because of small children in the house, they can arrange to pay a part of the deposit each month along with their monthly payment, if they request.

A deposit is also used as a stand-by for a payment, when the person or persons have moved out of the house and haven't notified or paid their latest bill. However, the gas company would prefer to be notified. After a year, the deposit is returned to the customer if they have had twelve consecutive prompt payments.

Portland General Electric (PGE) also has their procedures for shutting off electric power. It is based on the customers past paying habits. The Rural Tribune spoke with Mr. Gail Hein (Credit Manager) on how long PGE will wait for payments. Mr. Hein said, "The bill is due ten

days after the customer receives it, and again it would depend on their paying habits. Normally, they don't receive their final notice until we send out the second bill."

As far as considerations — sick children or any sick member of the family or any other problem will be considered a good reason for not paying the bill on time. This will only be considered if the customer notifies the company, otherwise the company will discontinue their service.

For the electric company, customers have to pay a deposit when they go in and apply for the electric power. The amount of the deposit varies according to how much the bills amount to. If customers don't have the money, they are then given a reasonable time to pay it. The company will only allow two payments on the deposit. Also, it would depend on the customer's situation.

The Rural Tribune spoke to local water commission under the city of Hillsboro. The local water commission, bills their customers once every two months. If a customer fails to pay his bills, it is then added to their next bill. For example: if the

company sends their first bill, and it isn't paid within two months, the company sends out the second bill with the first bill added and stamped in red, stating their first bill should be paid within ten day, or the water will be shut off.

If the family can't pay it because of sick children or a member of the family is injured or hurt, that will be taken into consideration, just like any other utility company.

For the deposits, the water commission requires a ten dollar deposit for new customers only. For example, if a family has lived in Hillsboro before and has moved to another town and returned to Hillsboro, or moved to another house in Hillsboro, they won't have to pay another ten dollar deposit. For the water commission the deposit should preferably be paid within seven days after their service begins. If the customer still hasn't paid the deposit, the commission should be notified so the customer can get a little more time to pay. There are different water districts, so they may have different policies.

A.R.P.

Condado No Mando Liste de Trabajos

El Valley Migrant League de Forest Grove a tratado de conseguir del Condado de Washington una lista de trabajos de Civil Service por mucho tiempo. En Agosto, Juan Martinez, Area supervisor por VML requesto la lista a Dan Potter, administrador del condado, quien prometio mandar la lista. Martinez habia sido una requesta parecida un año antes, sin ninguna respuesta. Hasta este mes de Febrero

VML no a recibido noticia de lista de trabajo.

En una conversacion por telefono con Rian Brown, director de county personnel, me dijo que el Valley Migrant League iba a recibir una lista de trabajos a como se habrieron las posiciones. Brown dijo que no habia una sola lista de los trabajos, que los trabajos eran puestos a como se habrieron las posiciones. El dijo que no habia ninguna posicion

habierta y por eso VML no habia recibido ninguna lista.

Pero despues de varios minutos cuando una reportera del Rural Tribune hablo de los trabajos civiles dijeron que posiciones se estaban habriendo todo el tiempo. Tambien se dio cuenta que habia muchos trabajos diferentes y levanto cinco aplicaciones de trabajos con el condado.

L.H.



Juan Martinez, area supervisor for the Valley Migrant League.

County Fails to Send Job Lists to VML

The Valley Migrant League of Forest Grove has been trying to get civil service job listings from the County Government for some time now. In August, Juan Martinez, area supervisor for VML requested the listings from Dan Potter, county administrator, who promised to send the listings. Martinez has made a similar request almost a year before, with no results. As of the first of

February, VML has not received notice of job listings.

In a telephone conversation with Rian Brown, county personnel director, I was told that the Valley Migrant League would receive job listings as positions opened up. Brown said that there was no one list of civil service jobs, each job was posted as it opened. He said that there were no positions open at this time and that was the reason

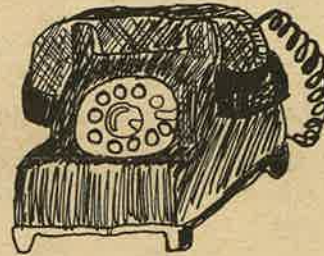
VML had not received any listings.

But a few minutes later, when a representative of the Rural Tribune checked on civil service jobs, she was told that new positions were opening up all the time. She found that there were many different jobs open and picked up fliers on five job openings with the County.

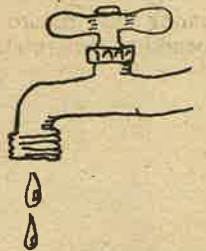
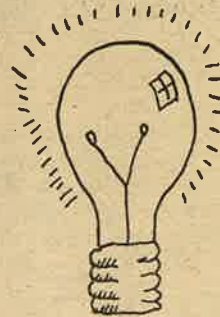
L.H.

Tips on Utility Bills

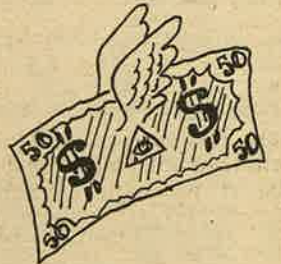
If you simply don't have the money to make a payment, call the utility company. They should give you extra time.



If there's a "hardship", and you can't make a payment, call the utility company.



If you don't have quite enough money for a deposit, talk to the utility company about breaking the deposit into smaller payments.



If anyone has any complaints or is having difficulties with their utilities, contact the Utility Commissioner at the Portland office, 238-8265, or at the Salem office, 378-6600.

Family Wins Deposit Fight

On Thursday, January 31, we were called by Mr. and Mrs. F., Welfare recipients who have been living in Scholls. They were planning to move into a house in Hillsboro. They had called the Beaverton PGE office to find out about having the electricity turned on. The PGE customer service representative told them that a \$60 deposit would be required. Finding out the F's were on welfare, he agreed to lower the deposit to \$50!

This excessive deposit was not based on the F's credit rating — they had not even been asked their name — but rather on the fact that past tenants at the Hillsboro house had not paid their bills promptly, and the last ones there had left owing PGE money.

We called the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) who verified that this type of practice was not only unfair,

but illegal under Oregon Law. At the end, the Beaverton PGE office was firmly reprimanded by the PUC, and the family was not asked to pay any deposit for their electricity.

Joanna Morris at the PUC also told me that all welfare offices have been issued guidelines (executive bulletin 68-46) for assisting recipients to work out payments for overdue bills, as well as contacting utility companies on the recipients' behalf to develop alternate plans to utility deposits. According to Ms. Morris, the utility companies, at least PGE and Northwest Natural Gas in this county, should be agreeable to solutions.

If you are on Welfare and are asked to pay utility deposits and if you cannot afford it, contact your caseworker. He or she should be willing and able to help.

Eric Cain

Judge Delays Jail Suit

According to Ms. Stevie Remington, Oregon Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU sponsored suit against the Washington County jail has suffered a serious setback.

Judge Skopil, who presided over the proceedings, issued an order to stay all investigation into practices and procedures at the jail until July 15th. Judge Skopil indicated to ACLU lawyers that he was sure that they could see that the county's efforts regarding the jail situ-

ation were sincere.

The ACLU dropped an effort to appeal the judge's decision after discovering that an appeal could not be made in time to expedite the trial.

Ms. Remington said that the delay was terribly disappointing because it is often difficult to keep in touch with plaintiffs over such a long period of time. She said that the ACLU would have to review the situation at a later date before coming to a decision in the matter.

S.F.

Insulate! Pool! Turn off!

Easing the Squeeze

- Heating costs can be cut by one-third with plastic on the windows; by one-half with plastic and with insulation in the attic. It may be late to put plastic up for this year, but now is the time to start looking for cut-rates on wood laths and plastic rolls.

- Oil heaters must be cleaned and adjusted to produce the most efficient heat. Under Oregon law, landlords must keep your heater in proper working order.

- Curtains are almost as good as doors for preventing heat from escaping into unused areas. Try to close off bedrooms and areas where the family doesn't spend lots of time.

- Now is a good time to set up a wood cutting co-op to collect logging slash for next year. The wood that is cut and collected can be used in home-constructed, low-cost wood heaters.

- Car pools, using buses and hitch-hiking all cut down on the amount of gas you use.

- Try to plan shopping, laundry, appointments, visiting your aunt for the same day instead of driving in and out of town several times.

- A brick in the tank of a toilet decreases the amount of water you use.

- Turn off your lights when you don't need them. The amount of energy you use when turning them on and off is very, very small compared to the amount used when they are on.

- The Community Action office is here to provide information and help solving shortage problems. If you have any questions contact us at 648-6646.

Stephanie Harris

CAP NEWS !!!

The Community Action Program's board of directors has approved a seed grant of \$505 for Volunteer Services Center in Forest Grove. The volunteer program will be a part of the new Forest Grove Community Center, which will emphasize programs for young people.

As proposed, two VISTA volunteers assigned to Community Action will run the volunteer program. They will be seeking ways to bring volunteers into the Forest Grove center.

Community Action's money will pick up the cost of the volunteer program phone, its postage and part of its transportation expenses during the next six months. The Community Center will provide additional transportation money, space for the volunteers, and the money for utilities.

The Community Center has promised to seek independent funding for the volunteer center after the Community Action grant runs out.

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The monthly meeting of Community Action's Board of Directors will be on February 20th at eight o'clock in the evening. The location has not yet been confirmed at press time. Call 648-6646 if you'd like to attend.

The board of Washington County Community Action voted unanimously to endorse the Beaverton Schools minority relations proposal. The action came at Community Action's January meeting, several days before the Beaverton School Board approved what is now the new policy. The Community Action Board also authorized its staff to offer support to the Beaverton Schools in implementing the new policy.

In other action, the Community Action Board commended the Forest Grove Schools for steps taken to improve the education of minority students.

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Free help with filing income tax is now available for low-income people at Washington County Community Action office in Hillsboro. There is also help in filing for home owner and renter property tax relief.

Jerry Rhoads of the Community Action staff will help people on any income-tax problems they might have. Those needing help are asked to bring a copy of their last year's income-tax form and other information such as property tax statements, interest statements, and W-2 forms.

If you are low-income and need help with your tax forms, call for an appointment at 648-6646 from 10 to 4 o'clock, Monday thru Fridays.

Forest Grove Surveys Needs, Attitudes

A survey questionnaire is being mailed out to over 400 randomly selected residents of the Forest Grove area this week. If you receive one of the questionnaires; it is important for the success of the survey that you complete it and return it as soon as possible.

This research project is being jointly paid for by the City of Forest Grove and the Washington County Community Action Organization. The project is directed toward discovering:

- 1) the extent of unmet needs, and

- 2) attitudes about human services in general, in so far as they can function to solve human needs.

The survey is being conducted as part of the City of Forest Grove's

"community planning program" and should provide information to help the Washington County Community Action Organization in its programs serving the needs of low-income families. Jim Long, a consultant, designed the survey and is coordinating a few volunteers from a Modern Problems course at Forest Grove High School and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (in Hillsboro) who are helping to complete the project.

The survey questionnaire has been designed so that people may express their own (and their family's) basic personal needs. The questionnaire also measures attitudes about human services in general, the the Forest Grove community's

need for various service programs. The needs covered in the questionnaire correspond to and include the following services: health, medical, food, welfare, social service, educational, legal and recreational.

The Forest Grove City Manager and City Planner (Tony Baldwin and Bob Browning) believe that it is important for the city government to begin to have some good information about the community's needs and attitudes in order to be able to plan to meet these needs through the possible development of service programs. This small survey in Forest Grove will hopefully be the pilot project for a county-wide human needs and attitudes survey. The Washington County Commissioners have tabled a proposal for the countywide survey until the Tri-County Community Council completes its regional priority study.

Jim Long

Write Your State Senator and Representative

This month, the Oregon Legislature will be meeting in a special session. They will be considering a new budget for the Public Welfare Department, among other issues. The session could consider giving its approval to the Women, Infants and Children program. Interested readers should write their legislators immediately.

The following is a list of Washington County's legislators:

Senate District	Senator
1	W.H. Holmstrom
2	Stan Ouderkirk
3	Thomas Hartung
4	Victor Atiyeh

All senators can be reached at Oregon State Senate, Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310.

House District	Representative
1	Dick Magruder
2	George Cole
3	Paul Hanneman
4	Les AuCoin
5	Lewis Hampton
6	Mike Ragsdale
7	Pat Whiting

All representatives can be reached at Oregon House of Representatives, Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310.

To find out who represents your area in the House and Senate, call the County Elections Office, 648-8856.



'Belt a Little Tight?'

The Meal Master is a publication of the County Extension Service and is distributed to food stamp families at post offices. It is designed to increase awareness of nutrition among low-income families.

January's Meal Master asks the question, "Is your belt a little tight?" It goes on to say, "If you are like many people, you ate too much during the holidays. Now is the time to lose those extra pounds." Meal Master begins by suggesting, "Eat smaller servings of food."

We wonder how many readers stopped right there. Given the high cost of food and the inadequate amounts of food stamps, we're wondering how many low-income families got a chance to over-eat for the holidays this year.

The Meal Master is a good idea. It's packed with good advice on how to brush your teeth and on which foods are rich in calcium. But who is going to read it, when so many people are struggling to make ends meet and still find themselves accused of over-eating?

P.S.J.

VSI Volunteer of the Month

Any Thursday you're in the Co-op, peek around behind the refrigerators and you'll see Marge Tattam at the cheese table.

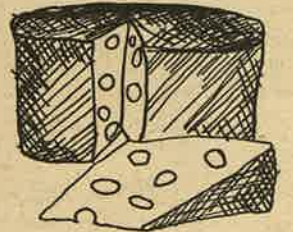
Marge has been working at the Co-op every Thursday since last March (over 20 hours per month) with only a short time off to visit her daughter in England last spring.

Marge hails from London and moved to the States as a child. She learned about the Co-op from her friends Laine Friedman and Gloria Shaich, also active volunteers.

Every Thursday finds Marge at the table behind the refrigerators where she and Laine cut, wrap and label the whole week's supply of cheese.

Distance doesn't deter Marge from her weekly commitment to the Co-op. From Raleigh Hills she takes a bus to downtown Portland, and from there another bus to Tualatin — all told, a trip of 1½ hours. She spends all day at the store and her son picks her up somewhat after 4:00 p.m.

When asked what she likes best about the Co-op and what motivates her to give so much of her time, Marge



says, "It's so grand to do something. It's great to work hard and not get paid for it. You really feel like you've done something. Of course, I benefit when I shop here, too. But I like being around people and I like the people here."

People feel the same about Marge. Comments heard around the store: "She helps us every Thursday; she's a real gold mine." "She's so nice to the other volunteers — feeds them bits of cheese and hot tea from her thermos. She's a person who really makes you feel good."

So next time you buy cheese think of Marge who helped cut and wrap it for you "because she likes people." Better yet, if it's Thursday, peek around the refrigerator and say "Hi" to Marge. You'll be glad you did.

(by Gail MacLean)

From the V.S.I. Newsletter