

# The Rural Tribune

Volume 1, Number 9

September, 1973

## Working and Living in Washington County

### 'Wetbacks' -- Up From the Mexican Border

There are 5,000 illegal aliens from Mexico working or looking for work in Oregon, according to Albert Conversano, District Director of Immigration and Naturalization in Portland. The illegal alien has many names — wetback, Alambrista (those who cross the border through a fence — alambre means wire), Mexican national, or simply illegals. In Washington County, there may be more than two hundred illegals living and working right now.



Albert Conversano, District Director of Immigration and Naturalization

Farmers and ranchers hire illegal aliens, because, they claim, illegals work hard and finish the job. Some local farmers and ranchers go to Mexico to recruit. Everyone seems to benefit, including the Mexican government — except for the aliens themselves who live in fear and in poverty, and other low-income people who have, in effect, been displaced from jobs.

Having contacts with many Chicanos in the county, I had no trouble finding an illegal to



Reporter Aguirre interviews an illegal alien

interview. Not all of them would talk to me. Most of the migrant labor camps have several illegals living there.

It is not illegal to hire a wetback unless it is done knowingly, and it is difficult to prove that an employer knows. But labor contractors can spot an illegal at a glance and they usually have some of them working. During my investigation, I even received leads on "coyotes," those who make their living by illegally transporting illegals from Mexico, or within the United States.

Illegal aliens are poor people and their problems are closely connected to the lives of farmers, ranchers, factory owners, nursery owners, and the poor in our county.

#### Rafael Rios: At Last, A Visa

In researching this story, I came across several former illegals who weren't afraid to talk. One of them is Rafael Rios. His experiences as an illegal alien go back twelve years. In 1960 he crossed the Rio Grande for the first time. He has crossed back and forth, four or five times, either willingly or when taken by Immigration. At one time, he had his wife and two children with him as illegals. They were caught and were sent back to Mexico.

"When I would come over, it was because I had no schooling at all and couldn't make a living. How could I get an education when my parents died when I was very young and was moving from place to place? All the work I could get was with the pick and shovel for twenty pesos a day. I never paid a coyote and never told anybody I was a wetback. I was always on my own. I started working in Texas for 50 cents an hour, hoeing and picking cotton for three cents a pound. I even paid my (U.S.) taxes and had a social security number. I've been to Chicago as a wetback and even in California before I stayed in Oregon."

(continued on page two)

#### In Changing to New System

### Aged, Blind, Disabled Left Behind

Due to the passing of a federal bill called H.R. 1, people now on welfare who are blind, over 65 years old, or disabled will soon get federal welfare checks, as well as state checks. 18,000 people now on welfare in Oregon and many new recipients will be affected. Federal payments begin January 1, 1974.

Drafted by Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, H.R. 1 most benefits people in the Southern states. In Georgia, for example, federal payments will give welfare recipients twice what they now get.

The accompanying table only begins to show how a person will fare under the new system in Oregon. Most of Oregon's aged, blind and disabled will not benefit from the bill, because they will not be able to get foodstamps; and because most people will get less than they now get, if inflation is taken into account.

Other welfare recipients will receive a significant increase in welfare payments. The recent Oregon Legislature raised the percentage of need covered by the basic welfare grant and added a cost-of-living increase too. According to Keith Putman, welfare assistant

administrator in Salem, the total increase will raise support by 25%. But those in the new federal payment program — the blind, the aged and the disabled — will receive no increase. Instead of holding their own under the new system as the table indicates, they will fall behind other welfare recipients.

The new program does offer a better income disregard and also relatives will no longer be liable for a support contribution to a recipient who goes on assistance after July 1, 1973. But H.R. 1 provides even less money than Nixon first proposed in 1969. And the 1973 Oregon Legislature failed to come up with an adequate state supplement, claiming it cannot do so until the federal government clarifies its program and can assure the level and quality of its payments.

Portland Legal Aid attorney, Stanley Sitnick, criticized the state welfare executive committee for not pushing harder to get at least an 8% cost of living increase and foodstamp bonus in all welfare grants, so that in the example the single person would get \$166 instead of \$153.

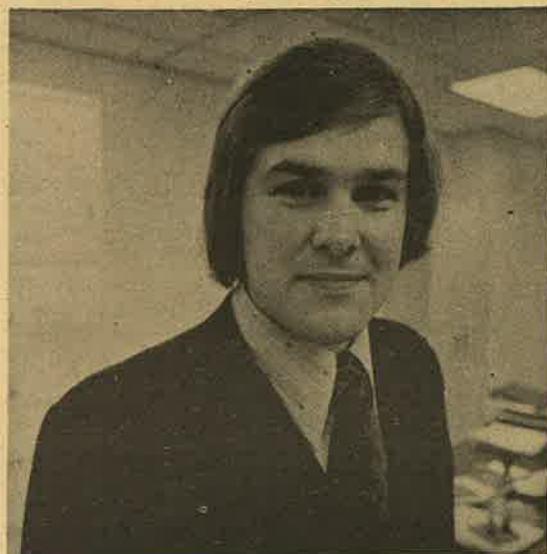
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Washington County Community  
Action Organization, Inc.  
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Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

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#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Pictured above is Rian Brown, the County's new personnel director. The County has been slow to respond to Chicano demands for a better chance at a job. And plans for a Human Relations Committee to deal with Chicano problems have produced only talk. (Stories are on page three.)

# Coyotes and Immigration; Running, Hiding, Hard Work

(continued from page one)

After being deported again, Rafael and his family were able to get a visa to enter the country legally, ending twelve years of hiding. He now works for a camper manufacturer and hopes to learn English well enough to get his U.S. citizenship.

Illegals who manage to stay in one place long enough are able to get sponsorship from U.S. citizens — which helps in returning to the U.S. legally.

## Andres Acosta: Under the Wire

Andres Acosta is a wet-back living in the county. To look at him one would say that he is just another Chicano for he has fairly long hair and wears good clothes, but once he talks, his speech gives him away. We are sitting outdoors, drinking a cold beer and getting acquainted. The people that got us together are also next to us but only one of them knows how to speak Spanish and I am very uneasy because I can't talk to all of them at the same time. I find myself translating back and forth every time the conversation gets good.

I finally decide to interview Andres and not worry about hurting anybody's feelings. He is twenty-five years old and has a wife and one son back at Tepatitlan, Guadalajara, Mexico. "I left Mexico in June of 1972 for the first time and headed to Tijuana with 4,500 pesos (\$340) in my pocket — enough to pay the coyote, but that was my first mistake. I call it a mistake because all of my compadres that were with me also carried the same amount.

"There were five of us from the same town who

were going to make our fortune if our luck was good in the States. We were in Tijuana and found a man who said he knew a coyote who could get us across for the right price and, if we wanted to, tonight we could make the arrangements. That night we were off with two guides, walking across the desert to a certain point where the coyote had said he was going to pick us up the next day.

"There were (now) eleven of us in the bunch and the walk was fast for we had a long way to go. Three hours after we started and had crossed multiples of fences, two men in the bushes ordered us to stop. They had flashlights pointed at our faces, and I thought for sure we were being busted by Immigration. At first, we were ordered to raise our hands, then to lie down and not make a sound. I saw a gun so I didn't move, but it wasn't Immigration. It was a hold-up.

"We all lost our money and there was even a guy I didn't know who got his brand-new boots and jacket stolen. Of course, it was the coyote or some of his pistoleros who had found easy pigeons. The robbers left and our guides wanted to go back, but they stayed and we continued to talk until we got to the place where the pick-up man was supposed to arrive just before daybreak. He got there and took us to another point. He told us to wait. Again another man got to that point and brought us food and water. He said he knew about the robbery and wanted to take us to our destination, but he wanted to know how we were going to

pay him. After all, we didn't have any money.

"We told him what had happened and accused his bunch of the robbery. He didn't pay much attention to our predicament, but had some food and water for us. He wanted to know if we could pay him when we started working. He told us that he couldn't take us this morning because there had been a tip-off. He told us that he would pick us up that night. To wait where we were and not wander off. We were near San Diego. We waited and he didn't come that night or the following night.

"We waited five days and nights and finally decided to hit the road again. Nobody knew where we were so we started to walk north. After walking about ten miles, the talk began of turning ourselves in instead of continuing. All of us were hungry and thirsty and hadn't bathed for one week. We hit a highway and started to walk toward Los Angeles when a police car with one officer pulled up next to us. He opened his window and yelled out in Spanish, 'Where are you boys going?' We told him we were heading to Tijuana and he remarked that if we were going to Tijuana how come we were walking toward Los Angeles. We were sort of glad to see Immigration pull up and load us up ten minutes later. At least we would get some food and water.

"Immigration took us to 'el corral' at San Clemente for one morning and we got some food and water. Any of the food they gave us was like the best we've had since it's been five days since we ate or drank water. There were about 80 'alambristas' and we

were all loaded up on two buses and taken to Chula Vista. At Chula Vista there were hundreds of 'alambristas' and we spent the rest of the day there. At 8:00 p.m.

were all hauled back to Mexico to the state of Sinaloa."

Andres continued, "I arrived at my town 15 days after I had left and my face was swollen from an insect bite I got in the brush. I still hadn't bathed since I left, so I was a sorry sight. I again borrowed another 4,500 pesos but this time I sent it to the ranch where I was originally going to work.

"I took a little spending money. This time I got caught in San Diego and hauled back. Two days later I tried again and this time I made it. The coyote got paid and he left and I started to work for \$250 a month.

"Twenty-two days later I was in Oregon working with this ranch I'm at now. The pay was and still is \$250 a month, plus my room with all the furnishings."

While talking with Andres I got him to invite me over to his residence. When I got there about 8:00 p.m. he was still working. I asked him what time he started and he said about 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning. To my luck there was also another 'alambrista' staying with him for a few days until he could find a permanent job. They got done about nine, so we went to his house.

The room where Andres lived had almost everything he needed. He added his personal touches by putting up pictures of the Virgin Of Guadalupe by his bed and having two or three jars of hot chile on his table. Pictures of his wife and one son, who wasn't even walking when he left, are near his writing table. He says he receives at least one letter from his wife a week.

He complained about paying 48 cents for one dozen tortillas at the supermarket. "That's several pesos and wouldn't ever pay that at home." We talked about how he took orders from his boss since he didn't know English and his boss didn't know Spanish and he explained that they used a lot of sign language.

I tried to get his friend Juan to talk to me. He was reluctant, but after about one

## Juan Silencio:

### A Raise in Salary?

hour he started to join in the conversation. Their greatest fear was being found and taken back to Mexico just when their luck was running so good.

Juan spoke, "You know I got back to the states just 22 days ago. The first time I got here, I stayed 4½ years and went back voluntarily. But you must understand that our need to work is great, because one just can't find enough work at home to make a living. Especially since I have no education and have a wife and two kids."

I managed to explain what cultural shock was and wanted to know how they managed to stay sane after hiding and working for long hours, at pay that wasn't considered great by our standards, for years at a time.

Juan was the most verbal on this subject, "I realize that our bosses work us harder and longer. I know that if they hired an American citizen it would cost them twice as much, because, in the first place, he wouldn't have to live on the ranch because he could drive. That would eliminate the longer hours and so the boss would have to hire another worker to finish the job. Even the pay is below what an American citizen would want but we desperately need work and we have to take it. Why do you think they prefer to find a wetback and they do everything to keep you?"

Andres' only complaint was that he wished he could ask for a raise but he was scared of being fired for asking. He said he was going to ask in one month because by then he'd have worked one whole year.

Amador Aguirre

**Editor's Note:** Andres Acosta and Juan Silencio continue to live and work in Washington County. They agreed to talk to our reporter on the condition that their identities be protected. We have not used their real names in this story.

## Shift to Federal Checks for Disabled

(continued from page one)

"Welfare's job is to represent the people they serve who are the recipients," says Sitnick, "to lobby for them to get an adequate standard of living rather than to decide what they think the legislature will accept and no more."

The latest Consumer Price Index shows that the cost of living has gone up at least 6% in the last year, and meats, fish and poultry are up as much as 25%. Recipients

under the new program will simply be unable to keep up with the soaring prices.

In addition to the confusion of receiving two checks from separate agencies, recipients will have no fair way of protesting federal actions on their grant. If a person asks for a hearing and loses his case, he must pay back all assistance given up until the hearing decision. He is therefore discouraged from asking for a hearing.

"There are no advantages to this program — not in this state," says Keith Putman.

"The main problem is that a recipient will no longer get service in a handy one-stop service center." Federal checks are handled by the Social Security Administration which has 14 state offices. State payments will be handled by 43 welfare branch offices.

Interested people should direct their questions about the new program to the county welfare office. During the application process, eligibility for medical care will also be explored.

K.B.

	FEDERAL monthly check to recipient	STATE monthly check to recipient	monthly foodstamp bonus	total monthly value
<b>Present Welfare</b> 1 aged or disabled person in home, no income	0	\$144	\$10	\$154
<b>New Program</b> 1 aged or disabled person in home, no income	\$130	\$ 23	none	\$153
<b>Present Welfare</b> 1 aged or disabled person in home, with income	0	\$151 \$144 + \$7 disregard	\$10	\$161
<b>New Program</b> 1 aged or disabled person in home, with income	\$150 \$130 + \$20 disregard	\$11	none	\$161

Vol. 1, No. 9 of The Rural Tribune. This newsletter is published monthly by the Washington County Community Action Organization and funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity. There is no charge for the paper and there will be no advertising. We will publish articles and announcements of particular interest to the low-income people of rural Washington County. For additional copies, or to be added to our mailing list, write The Rural Tribune, Community Action, 546 E. Baseline, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

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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.

Affirmative Action by July, 1974

## County Doing Little Minority Hiring

In February, the Rural Tribune carried an article on the resignation of Mary Perlman, county juvenile counselor. She complained that hiring practices of Washington County did not meet federal standards with regard to minority employment. At that time we asked county administrator Max Rolih what his plans were for administering an Affirmative Action Program for hiring minorities. Mr. Rolih said, "A full-time person would be required to do a thorough job of it." In June, the position of full-time personnel director was created, and Mr. Rian Brown took over this job. Last Friday we talked with Mr. Brown about an Affirmative Action Program and his plans regarding it.

As to the kind of program the county now has, Mr. Brown admitted, "There is none." He further explained that he hadn't done anything in that direction because he "hadn't really taken over this new job yet" and is "still working at his old position as assistant county administrator." A new administrative assistant has not been hired.

Despite the federal law requiring the county to have some kind of action recruitment program for hiring minorities, there were only six Spanish-surnamed people out of almost seven hundred people employed by the

county last February. We asked the new director of personnel how many minority people were now employed by the county, and Mr. Brown replied, "I don't know." He then agreed that the situation was probably no better than in February. By October 15, the county must complete a survey on the number of minority employees, but Mr. Brown stated, "We haven't received the forms yet."

When asked what proposals he might consider making toward an Affirmative Action Program, Brown replied, "I can't give any specifics, because I just don't know enough about it yet." Might he consider revising the Civil Service Exams to eliminate any bias toward minorities? Brown answered, "I don't think the exams are unfair. They are the same ones administered by the state and the state does have an Affirmative Action Program."

What did he think about making the list of job openings more accessible to Chicanos? Brown said, "The openings are published in the Argus and are posted on the ground floor of all the Courthouse buildings, including the Health Department where according to Brown, "the majority of the Chicanos of this county pass through at least once or twice a month." He

also suggested that his office would make these lists available to any minority group that requested them. Brown went on to say that, "In fact, the Valley Migrant League was told the same thing two years ago but never followed through." Under an Affirmative Action Program, a county could be required to contact established minority organizations whether asked for copies or not.

On the question of civil service exams, Mr. Brown stated, "The only barrier to anyone's getting a civil service job is the minimum qualifications." He believes these minimum qualifications to be fair and set as low as possible to enable a person to carry out the requirements of the specific job.

In concluding the interview we asked what would be his priorities as Personnel Director. Brown said he had two main priorities, the first was "to study and reevaluate personnel policies of the County, that hadn't been changed for years." The second priority is, "to reevaluate the salary policies of the County that haven't been changed since 1969." Where an Affirmative Action Program falls on his list of priorities he didn't say, although Brown did say that he would complete plans "by the end of the fiscal year" — July 1974.

Scott Lyons

## Chicano Demands - Are They Getting 'Lost in the Shuffle'?

Last April, Chicano leaders of Washington County met with two County Commissioners, the Sheriff, some local police chiefs and others, to discuss the special problems of Chicanos in the county. In particular they discussed the treatment of Chicanos by local police officers, an issue first raised by the Rural Tribune some months ago.

The meeting appeared to bring Chicanos and local officials closer together on a number of problems raised by Chicano leaders. The Chicanos had asked for paid interpreters in the courts, police departments and schools, and for reform of civil service practices, so that local government would open up new opportunities for minority citizens.

Although a Human Relations Committee was set up to watch over these social issues, nothing has been accomplished almost four months after the original meeting. The new County Administrator, Dan Potter, told The Rural Tribune that the County Commissioners never briefed him on the Human Relations Committee. "What's happening is you came to the world's worst inquirer. You've got me at a total disadvantage. I read about it in The Rural Tribune, but other than that I have no knowledge."

The Rural Tribune then spoke with Eldon Hout, Chairman of the County Commissioners, who said, "I've brought it (the Human Relations Committee) up at three different Commissioner's meetings and have had very little response." He said that three votes were needed to begin any action.

Yet, Commissioner Dagg also attended and supported the original meeting with Chicano leaders, and Commissioner Rod Roth has expressed strong interest in the proposal.

Chairman Hout now sees the human relations plan as part of a larger scheme to handle all social problems in the county. "My personal view of the Human Relations Committee is (that it is) to be a sort of umbrella committee for all social services of the county." This is a part of his proposal to use the Green Amendment to the Economic Opportunity Act, for a takeover of Community Action. This move would put the federally-funded Community Action program directly under the County.

Hout advised this reporter, "If you want to get together with other Chicanos and present what you want at the next Commissioners' meeting, you will get a definite yes or no... Don't think that your demands are getting lost in the shuffle."

A.A.

## Todavía No Hay 'Affirmative Action'

En Febrero, el Rural Tribune tubo un artículo de la renuncia de Mary Perlman, una consejera del Washington County Juvenile Department. Ella se quejó de las prácticas de ocupar empleados en el condado de Washington no se asemejaban a los niveles Federales con respecto al empleo de minorías. En ese tiempo nosotros le preguntamos al administrador del condado Max Rolih que cuales eran sus planes para administrar un programa afirmativo para ocupar minorías. El señor Rolih dijo, "Para ser un buen trabajo necesitamos un full-time personnel director y horita no tenemos uno." Ahora el señor Rian Brown tomo este trabajo. El viernes pasado nosotros hablamos con el señor Brown del programa de acción afirmativo y sus planos refiriendose a eso.

A la clase del programa que el condado tiene ahora, el señor Brown admitió "No hay ninguno." El despues explicó que no había hecho nada en esa dirección porque toda vía no tenía esa posición, y toda vía estaba trabajando en su posición vieja como ayudante del administrador del condado y un ayudante del administrador del condado toda vía no es ocupado."

A pesar de que la ley federal esta requiriendo que el condado tenga una clase de programa que sea activo en reclutar jente para ocupar minorías, ayí nomas había seis con apellidos español de casi setecientos personas empleados por el condado, en

el mez de febrero. Nosotros le preguntamos al director nuevo del personaje que, que tantos personas de minorías son ocupados ahora por el condado, y el señor Brown dijo, "Yo no se." El despues dijo que la situación probablemente no estaban mejor que en febrero. Para el quince de octubre, el condado tiene que acabar su estudio de que tantas personas estan trabajando ayí y que sean minorías, pero el señor Brown dijo "nosotros toda vía no hemos recibido las formas toda vía."

Cuando fue preguntado que propositos el pueda considerar en hacer para el programa de Affirmative Action Brown dijo, "yo no puedo dar ningunos especificos, porque yo toda vía no se mucho de eso." Pudiera el considerar en revisando los Civil Service Exams para eliminar cualquier problema sobre minorías? Brown contesto, "Yo no creo que los exámenes sean injustos. Esos son los mismos que son administrados por el estado, y el estado si tiene un programa de acción afirmativo."

Que creía el en hacer la lista de trabajos mas facil para chicanos? Brown dijo, "Los trabajos son anunciados en el Argus y son puestos en el piso de abajo de la corte, incluyendo el departamento de salud donde segun Brown, "la mayoría de los Chicanos del condado pasan por ayí a lo menos una vez por semana o dos veces por mez." El tambien dijo que su oficina iba hacer las listas y las iba a poner donde los grupos de

minorías puedan pidirlas. Brown despues dijo, "tambien el Valley Migrant League fue dicho la misma cosa hace dos años pasados pero nunca hicieron nada." Abajo de un programa de acción afirmativo (Affirmative Action Program), un condado puede ser requerido a contactar organizaciones establecidas que son minorías aunque haigan pedido copias o no.

En la pregunta de los Civil Service exams (Exámenes del Servicio Civil) El señor Brown dijo, "La unica barrera para que cualquiera tome un trabajo del servicio civil es la cualificación minima." El cre que las cualificaciones minimas son justas, y puestas tan bajas que es posible para que una persona puede llevar los requerimientos de un trabajo específico.

Casi al acabar de hablar con el, le preguntamos, que son sus prioridades como director del personaje del condado Brown dijo que tenia dos prioridades, la primera era "para estudiar y evaluar otra vez las polizas del personaje del condado, que no habian sido cambiadas por años." La segunda prioridades es, "para evaluar otra vez las polizas de pagos del condado y que no habian sido cambiadas desde 1969." Donde un programa de acción afirmativo (Affirmative Action Program) cai en su lista de prioridades, el no dijo esto aunque Brown si dijo que el iba a acabar los planos "para el fin del fiscal year" — julio 1974.

## Las Demandas de Chicanos No Fueron Conosidas

El Abril pasado, dirigentes Chicanos del condado de Washington se juntaron con dos comisarios del condado, el sherife, y unos jefes de policia de alrededor y otros, para discutir problemas especiales que Chicanos tienen aqui en el condado. Particularmente, ellos discutieron el tratamiento de Chicanos por unos policías locales, un artículo escrito en el Rural Tribune un tiempo pasado.

La junta trajo Chicanos y oficiales locales mas juntos en un numero de problemas hechas por dirigentes chicanos. Los Chicanos habian pedido que tuvieran interpetes pagados en las cortes, departamentos de policia y en escuelas, y para reformas de servicios civiles en practicas, para que el gobierno local habran nuevas oportunidades para los ciudadanos de minorias.

Aunque un comite de Human Relations fue juntado para ver estos asuntos sociales, nada ha sido hecho y ya casi son cuatro meses desde que paso esto. El nuevo administrador del condado, Dan Potter le dijo al Rural Tribune que los comisarios del condado nunca le dijieron a el del comite de relaciones humanas. "Lo que esta pasando es que tu has venido al hombre que menos sabe de estas cosas en el mundo. Tu me tienes en una desventaja totalmente. Yo Leí de eso en el Rural Tribune pero mas cosas de estas, yo no se."

El Rural Tribune despues

hablo con Eldon Hout, presidente de los comisarios del condado, quien dijo, "Yo lo traje (the Human Relations Committee) a tres diferentes juntas y ningunos de los demas comisarios expreso interes. Para ser algo necesitamos tres votas de cinco y no las teniamos." Pero lo que los Chicanos no entienden es que cuando los Chicanos tuvieron la junta con los comisarios y las chotas en abril ya habian tres comisarios con votas de "si." Ellos eran Eldon Hout, Virginia Dagg y Rod Roth.

Presidente Hout ahora ve que el plan de las relaciones humanas es una desposicion mas grande para manejar todos los problemas sociales en el condado.

"Como yo veo esto personalmente de el Human Relations Committee es que es una clase de sombra para todos los servicios sociales del condado." Esto es una parte de su propuesta para usar el Green Amendment para el Economic Opportunity Act, para tomar el Community Action. Esa movida va a poner el Community Action Program que apenas recibio fondos directamente abajo del condado.

Hout le dijo a este reportero, "Si tu quieres juntarte con otros Chicanos y presentar lo que tu quieras en la siguiente junta de los comisarios, te contestaremos si o no... No creas que tus demandas van ha ser perdidas o olvidadas."

A.A.

## Welfare Recipient Wins Protest

# Fair Hearing Orders Back-Payments

In May, The Rural Tribune published an article by Loretta Begin, a welfare recipient, who complained about Welfare's treatment of her case. Last year Ms. Begin had the first of two eye operations. Unable to work following the surgery, she applied for welfare assistance in September. She was given general assistance to cover her basic living expenses.

### Assistance cut off with surgery in her future

Without any notice, the county's Welfare office, cut off Loretta Begin's assistance for the month of February. Surprised, because there was no warning, she inquired at the Welfare office and was told that Welfare received a note from her doctor, who felt that she could return to work, although more surgery was indicated in the "not-too-distant future."

Her grant was restored in March and she had her second round of surgery that month. But her difficulties with Welfare were not over.

Her grant was suddenly reduced, without any notice, after a friend, Sharon Damrill, moved in to help her recover after surgery. Welfare assumed that Ms. Damrill, not a welfare recipient, would

### No fifteen-day notice, no chance to explain

contribute to the living expenses. In fact, Ms. Damrill was unemployed and later became eligible for public assistance herself. With both women receiving assistance from Welfare, both should have received a full welfare shelter allowance. But Ms. Begin's full assistance was not restored even then.

With the help of Community Action and a law student from the Northwestern Legal Clinic, Loretta Begin asked for a fair hearing. She protested that her grant was changed without the fifteen-day notice that the law requires.

All welfare recipients have a right to a fair hearing, whenever they disagree with an action taken by the Welfare Department. In addition, they are given the

option of attending a pre-hearing conference with representatives from the local Welfare office. Ms. Begin chose to attend a prehearing conference, where Vyvyan Gardner represented county Welfare.

Nothing was settled. But Ms. Begin did learn that the county office felt they did not have to give her fifteen-days notice because she was on "temporary assistance."

Welfare is also required to continue giving benefits to welfare recipients up until their fair hearing decision. The local office refused to give Ms. Begin her full level of support, and again said that this was not required because she was on "temporary assistance."

### A call restores rights

After the pre-conference hearing, law student Jim McCandlish called the State Welfare Policy and Standards office, which ordered the Washington County Welfare Department to reinstate the grant until a fair hearing decision was reached.

At her fair hearing in July, Ms. Begin argued that she was

not on "temporary assistance" at all because she received assistance for nine months; and because she had received two four-month eligibility reviews, which are used to evaluate "continuing" and not "temporary" welfare grants.

If she had been given the required fifteen-day notice, she could have explained that, in spite of her doctor's letter, she still had a doctor's appointment and that surgery would be scheduled soon. If proper notice had been given, she felt she could have avoided being cut off from her welfare grant in February.

### At the fair hearing . . . who is "essential"?

She also argued that her grant should not have been reduced when her friend moved in with her. Her friend was, in Welfare's terms, "an essential person" in the household, and she clearly had no way of contributing to household costs. The hearings officer was not able to uphold the claim that the friend was essential "in the absence of a physician's statement," he said. He did rule in Loretta Begin's favor con-

cerning the need for notice of grant change. "The Branch Office (of Welfare) was not correct in failing to send client a 15-day notice of proposed grant closure, as she should have been regarded as receiving continuing General Assistance." The same principle applied to the grant reduction, according to the fair hearings officer, and she should have been given a 15-day notice. For failing to give proper notice of grant changes, the local Welfare office was ordered to send Ms. Begin her February grant, and it was ordered to make up the grant reduction retroactively to the time when Ms. Begin's grant was reduced.

At the fair hearing, Ms. Begin complained that her grant was given in the form of requisitions (what Welfare calls "vendor payments"). The County Welfare office has a policy of using "vendor payments" rather than checks for all its general assistance recipients. Ms. Begin claimed that this was a hardship. While it made it possible for her to pay her rent and some other expenses, she had no cash for car maintenance or for laundry. This was quickly settled at the hearing, and Ms. Begin now receives her public assistance by check, which she is free to cash and spend as she sees fit.

Jerralynn Ness  
(with Paul Jacobs)

## Welfare Manual -- 'Contradictions and Gobbledygook'

(Karen Brentano worked for the State Public Welfare Department for over five years. She has worked as a family caseworker, an assistance worker and an investigator, in Multnomah and Washington Counties. Last December, she was asked to help revise the Public Welfare manual in Salem. In this article, she reflects on that experience.)

One of the shocking discoveries of new Welfare workers is that there is no one volume of current Welfare law. Policy comes from the Assistance Department in Salem in the form of executive bulletins, manual letters and administrative memos. A complete set of Welfare rules contains thousands of pages, stored in massive volumes. The manual incorporates the decisions of federal law, state law, and court injunctions. Traditionally it has been written by people hired specifically for this purpose, but who may have no direct experience working with poor people at the county level.

In response to assistance worker demands for an up-to-date manual, the Welfare policy and standards committee in Salem invited two workers with experience with the poor to attempt to revise the present manual without making new policy. An assistance supervisor from Jackson County and I went to Salem to the Public Service Building in November and December of 1972.

Though the Salem Welfare staff seemed accustomed to the conditions there, it was difficult for me to concentrate. Our room adjoined three others, one doorway had no door, and like most of the offices, there was a continual noise of typewriters, telephones, and business conversation. It was like trying to write a thesis in a laundromat. The staff there

kindly allowed us to complete our work at home.

I revised the Aid-to-Dependent-Children (ADC) sections of the manual, those parts that deal with families who apply for Welfare because of a parent's death, continued absence, unemployment or incapacity. The employment section was the most difficult. The policy committee had warned me in advance against tackling it because new federal requirements were coming in all the time.

I studied the recent Talmadge Amendments to the Social Security Act, which required every able-bodied unemployed man and every woman with children six or over to be referred to a training program (WIN), as a condition of opening their Welfare grant. I read the latest series of bulletins written by the policy committee, drew myself charts, and only after a week of reading continuously all day did I begin to understand the complicated interaction between the employment office and the Welfare. To understand it involved learning a whole new federal jargon, and there was little hope that any of it would be easily understood by an already busy assistance worker, who in some counties must also know food stamp rules.

I condensed the information relating to unemployed people to ten typewritten pages, and it was thought by

one committee member that this might be too brief. It was still so complicated, however, that when I went on to other sections I tended to forget what I had just written.

In the old manual, I occasionally found repetitious phrases, contradictory information, and whole unintelligible passages, as if the previous manual writers had fallen asleep or merely copied something that never made sense in the first place. Federal laws often contradict State laws, and some policies contradict both. It is difficult to keep taking in all the new information from so many sources, and few assistance workers find time to properly study the manual anyway. I began to fear that the person who applies for Welfare may have his case decided by verbal gobbledygook.

By December 15, I finished and typed the proposed revision of the manual section. It was then submitted to the policy committee for

discussion and further revision. Two months later when I left the Welfare no new ADC section had yet appeared. At the same time, I learned that a Willamette law student had worked for a year on manual revision, and that his proposals in simplified play-script form, though well-written, were rejected because they did not fit in with the existing manual: a manual so filled with Welfare jargon, Welfare workers themselves can't understand it, much less a law student.

When I had specific questions, policy committee members were generally available and helpful. Yet they are pressured themselves to write and discuss new policy, and in addition, they make decisions for each county as to whether or not policy exceptions can be made. A county supervisor with first-hand information about a Welfare applicant must get any policy exception cleared by the policy committee in Salem.

### Know Your Welfare Rights

The Washington County Welfare Department is understaffed. Assistance workers are overloaded with cases and that makes it very difficult to always be accurate. Unfortunately, it is the recipient who suffers most from these conditions. Without a basic understanding of welfare rights, recipients are powerless and at the mercy of the local office's interpretation of welfare rules and regulations. Decisions made at the local level may be arbitrary or even erroneous.

Many social workers are sympathetic to recipients and try to help. But even they are powerless to help and are at the mercy of a very complex and inefficient system. This is all the more reason why welfare recipients should understand what their rights are.

If you are interested in helping to form a welfare rights organization in Washington County or if you have any questions or need advice concerning welfare, please contact Jerralynn Ness at 648-6646, or drop by Washington County Community Action, 546 East Baseline, Hillsboro, Oregon. J.N.

With all the pressures on the policy committee, their natural tendency is to say no to requests. They keep grinding out new material as quickly as possible and to avoid extensive brainstorming about the impact of policy. I asked one committee member, for example, if people in school were eligible for ADC based on unemployment. "Leave that part of the manual vague," he advised. "We can't have every college student getting on Welfare." The idea seemed to be that foggy language should be used to control Welfare expenditure and to limit the increasing number of people on Welfare.

But clear writing by experienced Welfare workers may be one of the best ways to ensure that poor families get what they are entitled to. That is, the intent of much of the Social Security Act, which funds the federal share of welfare. When the needs of people applying for Welfare are considered, much of the material in the manual merely clogs and prolongs the determination of eligibility. The applicant must fit the rules. The rules don't fit the applicant.

People who apply for Welfare and those who work within it should continue to demand clarification of policy. Meanwhile, Welfare workers must decide every day who gets on Welfare, while there is still no one set of rules from which to make that decision.

Karen Brentano

## In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps

# Summer Funds Finally Unfrozen

The Neighborhood Youth Corps In-School Program has started again! The N.Y.C. program in the County was closed until this July 16th, when frozen funds were suddenly released. Ninety kids were enrolled and eighty were on the job at this writing. Many places are still open right now.

To be eligible for the N.Y.C. summer program, kids have to be between fourteen

and eighteen, and must come from low-income families. In order to be enrolled, a young person should go to the Extension Service in Hillsboro, located about a half mile from Shutes Park on the Tualatin-Valley Highway toward Beaverton. One of the student's parents must fill out an income statement to show that the family is qualified as low-income.

Many jobs are possible

through N.Y.C. Carpenters' assistants are needed. The Hillsboro chief of police needs help too.

If you are between fourteen and eighteen and are looking for a job, try calling the Washington County Extension Service at 648-8646. The three N.Y.C. supervisors are Warren Jones, Lydia Gantenbein and Cheri Asher.

Alma Rosa Perez



County NYC Staff: (from left) Mildred Funderburk, Cheri Asher, Lydia Gantenbein and Warren Jones



Pam Keck works for the Neighborhood Youth Corps in the CAP office

## Child Care At Aloha High

The Aloha Child Care Development Center for three- and four-year-olds will open September 17th in Aloha. Because it will be partially funded through School District No. 48 and will be located in Aloha High School, the center represents a new and innovative approach to child care.

The center will use the resources of the school, and Aloha High students will be working with the children through a training course called Social Service Career Clusters. The children will have daily contact with a wide range of different people, from the high-school students to retirement-age seniors. Experienced, degreed

staff will also be working full-time in the center at a ratio of one per five children. Two meals and two snacks will be provided each day. All things considered, the center should provide an excellent learning environment for the children in the program.

Hours of operation will be from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and a sliding fee scale will be offered to parents. For more information and application forms, contact Aloha High School at 649-0331.

Kathy Herlihy

## To Help Veterans In Courthouse:

Veterans can now get information on veterans' programs in the County Courthouse, in Hillsboro. Veterans' Service Officer, Mrs. Nancy Eickhoff will be happy to be of assistance to any veteran, who has served his country, from World War I up to the present.

Mrs. Eickhoff has her office at the County Courthouse at 1st and Main, which makes it easier for vets who live on the outskirts of Washington County, because they won't have to go all the way in to Portland for counseling. Veterans can get help from the time they get out of the service until the time they resume normal living.

Mrs. Eickhoff's main concern is to see that a veteran receives all the benefits and help he needs. She helps the widows and children of vets and the vets themselves, with hospitalization, education, and more. There are 2600 veterans in Washington County who have already received help.

If you need help and are a veteran, call Mrs. Nancy Eickhoff at 648-8691, Washington County Courthouse. A.G

## No Next Board Meeting

The August meeting of the Community Action Board was canceled because a number of board members were not able to attend. Board meetings are regularly scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. Regular meetings will begin again on September 19, in the new CAP office, 546 E. Baseline, Hillsboro. Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

## Seniors' Council Helps with Housing, Travel and Jobs

(The Rural Tribune interviewed Judy Pattee, executive director for the Washington County Council on Aging. She helps coordinate activities for the elderly in the county, assists in initiating new and needed services. Mrs. Pattee has previous experience as director of a Multi-Service Senior Citizens Center in Boulder, Colorado.)

Rural Tribune (RT): What sort of problems does the Council on Aging serve?

Judy Pattee (JP): Some problems the Council on Aging serves are transportation, housekeeping and employment and the socialization and isolation problem by setting up centers allowing individuals to meet or re-meet friends. So these are four very basic things. We also have a housing referral service. We have done a survey of almost all the apartments in the county to determine where they are and are they close to town, do they allow pets and are they close to bus lines. So the elderly can call asking for housing. We can tell them where to look for apartments or houses. We try to find places where they can look. We make up to two hundred calls on follow-ups, from the individuals that have called us, to make sure they are comfortable and satisfied with their houses or apartments. And if they haven't found any yet, they still remain in our list until we can possibly take care of them.

RT: What problems do the elderly of Washington County have, and how are you helping them?

JP: We are helping the Senior Citizens Center by having the employment and referral service. Since we opened the office in February, one hundred sixty individuals have called, requesting help in their homes. Their physical resources have become so limited with age that they are no longer able to take care of their own homes or take care of themselves. What they were facing was institutionalization or nursing homes, and there was no other service in the county that could help them with these problems.

RT: Are there any of the same services in other places in Washington County?

JP: There is a Senior Citizens Center in Forest Grove which has recreational and leisure type activities. They also have the meals service and meals-on-wheels for the people who cannot go to the center. We've initiated this same type of center here in Hillsboro and we are trying to set up another one in Tigard. We've also helped institute a drop-in center in Aloha which is based mostly on just recreational types of activities, right now. We've also instituted a transportation service and got support from the County Commissioners, and they have allotted money for a van to help

elderly with transportation, not only for the center, but for doctors, visiting friends, and also shopping and hospitals. This service will be for the seniors around the Forest Grove, Banks, Gaston area and will be six days a week, six hours a day. If this is a success, the Commissioners have fairly promised to give us money so we can start the same type of service in both Hillsboro and Tigard with three mini-buses within the next year.

RT: What is the Council on Aging?

JP: The Council itself is an advisory board of concerned, interested people... concerned about the elderly of the county. The council is made up of representatives of senior citizens groups, of clubs and organizations, interested individuals representing themselves, and agency people representing the Welfare Department, the Social Security Department, League of Women Voters. All kinds of different groups. There are approximately forty-five members of the council right now, and many of those are representing groups from ten to one hundred people.

RT: What is the main purpose of the Council on Aging?

JP: Very simply it is to prevent unnecessary institutionalization. Whatever it takes. Like the transportation and the information and referral service. Those are the

kinds of things that would help to prevent unnecessary institutionalization. So that's the goal of the Council.

RT: Why is this Council necessary?

JP: The Council on Aging is necessary because it is representing all the groups that are working now with the elderly and are coordinating the activities that are going on so that we can avoid any duplication. To date there wasn't any one person in Washington County that was responsible for the elderly residents. So this is why the Council has gone to the staff person.

RT: Who organized the Council on Aging?

JP: The Council on Aging was organized about five years ago by an interested loose group. Walt Magettigan used to be the president and in fact stayed as president for four years. The current president is Arthur Dickenson. These people said that there were problems for the elderly and... there wasn't even any communications for the elderly.

RT: With what money has it existed?

JP: For five years the Council on Aging existed with no money except for the two dollars per year for individuals and five dollars a year from organizations for their representatives. The Council now has money from a Federal grant from the state program on aging.

Interview by Alma Rosa Perez

## Centro Chicano Se Quemo

El Centro Chicano Cultural fue quemado en la fecha de Julio veinte que fue en un Viernes. Todo el piso del alto fue destruido por lumbre y una parte del piso de abajo.

Según se afirma que antes que se quemara fue robado. Según Robert Rodarte, coordinador de actividades del Centro, intrusos desparamaron muchos de los papeles de importancia, robaron un poco de dinero y habrieron la maquina de sodas y la robaron tambien, antes de ponerle lumbre al Centro. Una barra fue llevada para pruebas que habrieron una ventana por fuerza.

Los danos fueron estimados a \$15,000 pero de buenas que El Centro tenía una polisa de lumbre de \$15,000.

La biblioteca del Centro sufrio 40% de perdicio, mientras el studio donde trabajan para hacer su periodico fue completamente quemado, con unas fotografías que habian sido tomadas de actividades que El Centro habia hecho en el pasado.

La pintura que habia pintado Mario Cordova del V.M.L. fue salvada y llevada a un lugar seguro y es sido.

## Centro Chicano Is Burned

The Centro Chicano Cultural of Gervais burned down Friday morning July the 20th. All of the top floor was demolished by the fire and some of the bottom floor.

Allegedly the Centro was burglarized prior to the fire. According to Robert Rodarte, activities coordinator of the Centro, intruders scattered most of the files, stole some money and broke into the coke machine before setting the Centro on fire. A tire iron was taken as evidence which had allegedly been used to pry open a window.

The estimated damage was \$15,000 but luckily the Centro had a \$15,000 fire insurance policy on the building.

The Chicano library suffered a 40% loss, while the studio for layout of the Centro Chicano Cultural Newspaper was completely burned, along with a collection of photos taken of activities the Centro had done in the past.

The mural painted recently by Mario Cordova of VML was saved by the firemen. It

reservado.

Organizaciones como V.M.L. (Valley Migrant League) y CISCO (Chicano Indian Study Center Of Oregon) han estado ayudandolos con estritorios, maquinas de escribir, papeles y sobres para ayudar a continuar el trabajo de cada día.

El Neighborhood Youth Corps del Centro ha sido indispensable, en no dejar a la jente curiosa entrar al edificio quemado, en limpiando, ayudando en reconstruirlo, y tambien en poniendo un puesto en el festejo de CISCO que fue tenido en el Camp Adair para agarr donaciones.

El Centro le esta pidiendo a la jente que le ayuda en cualquier modo posible, con madera, ayuda de hombre, y con dinero tambien. El Director del Centro Chicano Cultural, David Aguilar dijo, "El Centro va a continuar a trabajar aqui y el espiritu del Centro y la raza va a ayudar a reconstruirlo. Pueda que nosotros perdimos el edificio, pero no nuestro espiritu."

Si usted puede ayudar en cualquier modo, llame al Centro Chicano Cultural en Gervais al numero 792-3616.

has since been taken to a safe place and stored.

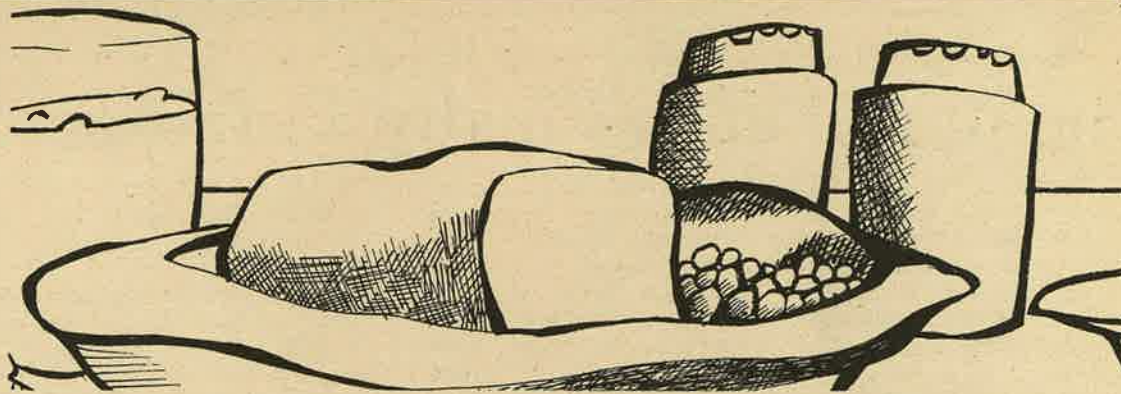
Organizations such as VML (Valley Migrant League) and CISCO (Chicano Indian Study Center of Oregon) have been helping out by providing desks, typewriters, paper and envelopes to help continue the everyday work.

The Centro's Neighborhood Youth Corps have been indispensable, keeping curious people from entering the burned building, cleaning up, helping to rebuild, and even setting up a booth at the CISCO festival held at Camp Adair to get donations.

The Centro is asking for people to help out in any way possible with lumber, manpower, and money. The director of the Centro Chicano Cultural, David Aguilar said, "The Centro will continue working here and the spirit of the Centro and the raza will help to rebuild it. We might have lost the building, but not our spirit."

If you can help in any way, call Centro Chicano Cultural in Gervais at 792-3616.

A.A.



## Canning Project Needs Help for Success

The Community Cooperative Canning Project is a newly organized self-help program to enable all those people, who up to now were unable to obtain enough fruit and vegetables to cover their need for winter.

This new program did not grow out of federal or state funding, but out of the effort of many individuals who feel concerned for the children, the senior citizens and the handicapped, who are actually going hungry.

Preventing hunger in our country is everyone's responsibility. We talk about the starvation around the world, feeling sorry for the people we see on TV, but we remain unaware of the hunger right here.

The Canning Project has asked growers for a chance to pick after the main crop is in and before the grower plows under the field. In this way,

the Canning Project does not interfere with the farmer's business, but it only asks for the windfall from his orchard or the remainders in the field after he has sold all he can sell.

Growers have already volunteered to help, with berries and cherries and now windfall apples. But more growers are needed, and it is hoped that they will call on the project.

The Project also needs canning materials — jars, lids and sugar. These are things that low-income people frequently cannot afford, and more donations are still needed.

All low-income families, senior citizens and the handicapped are especially invited to call on the Community Cooperative Canning Project. The project has found that families could be saving several hundred dollars a year through picking and canning.

need, they will find eager, helping hands. If they have no transportation, someone else can drive them. And for those who would like to learn to can, there are teachers ready to instruct them.

For further information or to make a donation, call:

Monika Belcher, Coordinator, in Hillsboro, 648-8381.

Dorothy Boise, Area Chairman, Aloha, 649-7037.

Ann Lucero, Area Chairman, Banks, 324-7052.

Mary Garrick, Area Chairman, Beaverton, 649-3434.

Theola Van Loo, Area Chairman, Gaston, 357-2700.

Donna Sweitz, Area Chairman, Scholls, 628-1740.

Stephanie Harris, Area Chairman, Forest Grove, 648-4174 or 357-8190.

Monika Belcher

## Salven Dinero Enbotando

La Cominidad Cooperativa del Proyecto Envesado esta nuevamente organizado por el self-help program para hacer posible la jente, quien hasta ahora no han podido obtener bastante fruta y legumbres para cubrir su necesidad para el invierno.

Este nuevo programa no crecio de fondos de federal ni del estado, pero del esfuerzo de muchos individuales que se preocupan por sus niños, y los handicapped que ya tienen hambre y Senior Citizens (Señores y señoras ahi de sezena y cinco años).

Preveniendo hambre en nuestro pais es la responsabilidad de todos. Nosotros hablamos de hambre alredo del mundo, sintiendo por la jente que vemos en el televisión, pero nos quedamos sin

saver del hambre aqui mismo.

El Proyecto de enfrascar le pregunto a los rancheros por una oportunidad para escoger despues que se acaba la cosecha principal, antes que el rancho la meta el disco. Asi el proyecto no se entremete con el trabajo del rancho, pero nomas le pregunta por el (windfall) manzanas que han caido y no las puede usar el rancho o lo que queda en la labor despues que el rancho ha vendido todo lo que pueda vender. Rancheros ya han voluntido su ayuda, con moras, cerezas y ahora manzanas que se han caido. Pero necesitan mas. Esperamos que hablen al proyecto.

El proyecto tambien necesita material de enfrascar — vasos, tapaderas y asucar.

Estas son cosas que gente de low-income no pueden comprar frecuentemente y se necesitan y mas donaciones.

Todas las familias de low-income, senior citizens y los handicapped estan especialmente invitados para llamar a el Community Cooperative Canning Project. El proyecto ha establecido que familias pueden salvar mucho dinero cada año escogiendo y enfrascando.

Si jente no pueden salir y escoger para su necesidad, ellos encontraran manos muy ayudosas y anhelantes. Si no tienen transportación, alguien mas puede llevarlos. Y para los que quieran aprender a enfrascar, hay mayestras listas para enseñarles.

Para mas información o para ser una donación, llame.

## News from The Hope Courier

(The Hope Country Courier reports news of the Hope Food Co-op and Country Crafts store. Here are a few items from the latest Courier.)

We have a new manager for the Co-op. Dave Apple has taken over this position and we suspect that he may be every bit as good as outgoing manager Bud Schmidt. Dave will usually be around the store during open hours and will train volunteers who feel they need help while operating the register. He is very enthusiastic and is sure that you can't think of a clever saying regarding his last name that he hasn't heard before.

Sue Storli and Mark Wagner have been comparing prices at Hank's and some of the price differences are astounding!! A few are listed below and a more complete list will be posted in the store on the bulletin board.

	Hank's	Hope's		Hank's	Hope's
Navy beans	.30	.22	Prunes	.62	.40
Dates	.69	.39	Cheddar cheese	1.45	.91
Jack cheese	1.27	.76	Mozzarella	1.46	.81
Peanut butter	.89	.49	Apples, del.	.44	.16
Oranges	.18	.10	Tea (papaya)	.54 oz.	.07 oz.
Sesame seed	.59	.39	Sunflowers	1.12	.40
Wheat germ	.53	.15	Soy beans	.46	.23
Brown rice	.38	.25	Sea salt	.17	.05

And if that isn't enough to convince you, raw cashews at Hank's are a fabulous \$3.68 per lb. — and at the Co-op, 81 cents per lb!!!



## Washington County Small Animal Shelter

# Bad News for Pets and Owners

Pets present special problems to low-income families. Rarely do poor people have enough money to pay for all the check-ups and shots that a dog or cat might require. And spaying or neutering an animal is often outside a family's financial resources.

Author Guernsey talked to Valerie Spencer, assistance supervisor at the county Welfare Department, to find out if Welfare had any policy about pets. Mrs. Spencer explained that there was no real policy on the subject. No money was allowed for pets, but it was within recipients' rights if they wished to have them. Mrs. Spencer added that spaying and neutering clinics and free examinations "would benefit everyone, if the service was there . . ."

If the Shelter had a sliding fee scale for low-income families, more animals might be adopted and fewer dogs and cats might be killed each month. Purchasing an animal could bring with it a free check-up. Multnomah County's Humane Society, working with volunteer vets, has just that sort of program, which clearly benefits families that want healthy pets, but are too poor to pay for medical care for animals.

Editor

Last month as usual in Washington County, the county Small Animal Shelter put to sleep as many animals as licenses sold during the same period. Located at 2255 S.E. River Road in Hillsboro, the Small Animal Shelter has been operating at maximum capacity since its opening in 1970.

Shelter figures for the months of June and July of this year show that approximately 1,000 dogs, pups, cats, and kittens were taken into the shelter during each month. Probably one-tenth of these are strays or animals impounded because of a complaint; a few old or sick animals are brought in for euthanasia; and the majority of animals remaining are part of the burgeoning pet population whose owners bring them to the shelter in hope that they may find new homes. Two or three out of ten succeed in finding new owners. The rest wait in cramped quarters until the final trip to the death chamber.

Shelter officials give various estimates of the number of animals killed. They state that June and July, 1973 are the only months for which figures are available. Statistics on the animals handled have never before been compiled. The specific stimulus at this time appears to be a program to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners, which would provide charges for handling small animal wastes for the veterinarians in the county. An incinerator, budgeted at \$13,500 is already on order. Presently, the Small Animal Shelter picks up dead animals from veterinarians and private individuals, free of charge. Shelter statistics, however, do not now show what percentage of the dead animals are from veterinary clinics.

There are certain inconsistencies in the figures shown by the shelter. For instance, roughly 1,000 animals are shown as taken in during each month. Of these, 200-250 are adopted and about 50 stray dogs are redeemed by their owners — leaving 700-750 animals still at the shelter. But a full 1,000 animals (1,064 in June and 1,160 in July) are shown as "put to sleep" during the month.

Fred O. Leutwyler heads the Washington County Ad-

ministrative and Finance Division, which administers the Small Animal Shelter for the County. He has looked at the July figures and realizes that they cannot be reconciled. But over a period of months, he expects the inconsistencies to be resolved. Leutwyler points out that until Clyde Pursell became Dog Control Officer in April, there were no formal statistics kept at all. People at the shelter, according to Leutwyler, didn't seem to understand the importance of keeping statistics.

Shelter records for the individual animals in their custody are also sketchy. The basis of the system is a standard identification form which is filled out for each animal or litter, either by a clerk-typist in the shelter office or by the dog control officer who picks up the animals. Although the form provides for a number of informative items, some items are frequently left blank. Often there are more dogs in a cage than can be accounted for by the identification forms on the door of the cage, or, as we observed, a beagle might be sold under the guise of a Labrador-Shepherd cross.

We also observed a woman redeeming her dog which had been picked up as a stray by a dog control officer. She wanted to know how and why her dog had been picked up, but the officer responsible had not signed his name on the identification form for her dog, and she was informed by shelter office personnel that the officers were not required to sign the forms, despite the provision made on the form for their signature, and that there was no way to discover which officer had brought in her dog. In fact, however, each dog control officer works in an assigned territory, and the name of the officer who had brought in the dog could be easily figured out.

The cage area consists of a group of small cages which house cats, kittens and small puppies, and two rows of larger cages 14' by 14' each. One row of cages contain stray dogs, which under Ordinance 77 governing dog control activities, must be kept for five days, or, in the case of a stray dog who is wearing a license, for seven days. At

the end of this time, if they have not been claimed by their owners, they are moved to a cage on the other side of the corridor, with the other dogs and puppies who are available for adoption. No signs are displayed to acquaint visitors with this procedure.

What if your dog is picked up as a stray and brought to the pound? Due to the poor records, as well as to the difficulty of identifying a mixed breed, it is almost impossible to find out by phone whether your dog is at the pound. Fred Leutwyler, advises daily checks in person at the shelter if you suspect your animal to be there. Despite whatever hardship may be involved in making these daily checks, it is the only certain way to find out if your pet is at the pound.

Shelter statistics do not show how many strays are redeemed by their owners. It is certain, though, that many more of the strays who are visibly licensed are returned to their owners, for shelter personnel can determine from their files the names, addresses and phone numbers of these dogs' owners, and will attempt to contact them. If they fail to reach an owner by phone, they are bound by Ordinance 77 to send a

Officer Clyde Pursell stated that if the dogs were allowed in the runs, they would dig under the fence and escape.

Dirty, crowded, and excited, the animals are rarely appealing. An animal who is dirty when he enters the pound is at a definite disadvantage, for he will receive no special attention to his appearance. He must also depend on the hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, for it is on Saturdays that the majority of animals are sold. The shelter is closed on Sundays which might otherwise be a busy time for adoptions.

The Small Animal Shelter is totally self-supporting and draws no tax money. It receives the bulk of its funds from the sale of dog licenses, \$80,000 out of a total budget of \$101,900 in 1972-73. The adoption price of \$5 for a dog and \$1 for a cat is comparable to the \$5 fee to license a dog, yet only \$7,000 or 7% of the shelter's 1972-73 budget came from the sale of animals. Estimates for 1973-74 are comparable. The 1973-74 budget of \$155,800 finances other activities beyond the housing, sale and euthanasia of animals. Also operating from the Small Animal Shelter are two full-time personnel who go from door to door to sell licenses. Four assistant dog control officers patrol in trucks for strays and unlicensed dogs, sell licenses, issue citations, investigate

recent *Oregonian* article, one female dog can in four years be responsible for as many as 4000 dogs.

Mr. Leutwyler stated that a spaying clinic for animals is too controversial for the county to involve itself in. "I don't think family-planning clinics are accepted in America, let alone for animals," Leutwyler said. Yet animal populations continue to grow, and business at the decompression chambers will no doubt be booming for a long time to come.

If the Small Animal Shelter were to deal more in life than in death, a number of approaches are possible. First, the relay of information to the public could be greatly improved. Publicity could be used to alert the public to the existence of the shelter; signs could be displayed in the cage area to acquaint the visitor with shelter procedures; statistics on the numbers and sources of animals handled, and their ultimate disposition could be posted monthly; properly kept identification forms would make it easier for prospective owners to learn something about the animals they are interested in. Advertising in free, give-away columns might be used, especially in the case of large or older dogs, or when there is a surplus of animals.

Secondly, the appearance of the animals could be improved. Scouts and 4-Hers might volunteer their help in this area. The Shelter present-



One thousand pets are "put to sleep" each month at the Small Animal Shelter. A spaying and neutering program, better advertisement of available animals, and volunteer support could help.

registered letter to the owner within 5 days of the animal's impoundment.

Although occasionally empty cages are observed, the animals are almost uniformly crowded. The area is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected once at the beginning of each day, and is cleaned "at need" thereafter, but we frequently found cages to be dirty. There are two outdoor runs, one on the back side of the building, where the dog control trucks are unloaded, and another on the front side. There is no direct access from the cages to the outdoor runs and they are unused except for an occasional Sunday, when the shelter is closed, and a part-time attendant may at his discretion let some of the dogs out for a while. Questioned about not using the runs, chief Dog Control

complaints and claims of livestock damage by dogs, and pick up dead and unwanted animals.

The Shelter also offers facilities for confinement and quarantine of dogs suspected of rabies, when the owners themselves are unable to confine them adequately. No vet is employed on a regular basis by the shelter, but they claim that all injured strays are taken to a vet for treatment, the cost of which is covered by the Small Animal Shelter, unless the veterinarian chooses not to charge for his service.

Washington County does not now provide a low-cost spaying and neutering clinic. A sample of spaying bills from veterinarians in the county indicates an average cost of \$40 to spay a dog and \$30 for a cat. According to a

ly has no volunteers. Special efforts for dirty animals and in preparation for the weekend would tend to raise the rate of adoptions. Daily use of the outdoor runs would make for healthier and happier animals, for fewer droppings in the cages and would give visitors a view of animals in their natural state, walking, running and playing.

Thirdly, a means of controlling the animal population must be found. A low-cost spaying and neutering clinic could be funded by surplus money (\$40,000 in 1972-73) and by proceeds from increased sale of animals — an increase that would be possible if there were a determined effort to improve the Shelter.

Deborah Guernsey  
and Patricia Jeffries

## Enrollment Now Open for Head Start

Head Start is a child development program in Washington County for low-income families. Many low-income parents want to enroll their kids in Nursery Schools but money always keeps them from doing this. Now people can enroll their children in Head Start by coming to the Community Action Program at 546 E. Baseline and filling out an application.

A screening meeting with parents will be held sometime in September to know what children are eligible for Head Start. The enrollment for Head Start starts in August and the children don't start going to the program until October.

The Head Start Program is to prevent problems of fear and lack of self-confidence, that children have when they're very young and just starting to learn about things. This is a nine-month operation. The programs are for children ages four and five.

There are two Head Start Centers in Washington County; one is located in North Plains and the other is in Metzger. The days the children attend the program in Metzger are a little different from the days children attend in North Plains. For instance the four-year-olds attend the

program two days a week and the five-year-olds attend three days a week. The days the four-year-olds don't go to the program, they go on field trips and the teachers talk to the children's parents and discuss problems to make the parents aware of what's going on both in the center and with their children. The same thing is done with the five-year-olds.

At the North Plains Center the four-year-olds and five-year-olds attend the center four days a week but in separate groups according to their age. On the fifth day, they either go on field trips or go to their houses while the teachers talk to their parents.

On field trips the children go to public schools, public parks, farms, post offices, fire departments, the zoo, and the ocean. These field trips are quite frequent, up to twice a month.

Medical and dental services are offered with the program. There is health screening for all kids, and the center arranges for dental exams, hearing and eye tests.

The University of Oregon Medical School provides some of the services. Shots are given by the Washington County Health Department,

which provides children with vitamins, and offers nutritional information to parents.

Head Start has helped children get hearing aids and glasses on some occasions. If glasses and hearing aids can't be provided, Head Start will refer the children to other places where the needed aids and glasses can be provided.

A. R. P.



Wayne Potter, Director of Head Start



### Brief Blurbs

#### Tribune Takes Vacation

The Rural Tribune is taking a vacation. We will be publishing on October 12 to begin our second year of publication.

#### Cider Press Wanted

The Community Cooperative Canning Project needs the use of a cider press. If you have one that the Project can use, call Monika Belcher, 648-8381.

#### We Made A Mistake!

Last month, in an article about former migrant Emilio Hernandez, The Rural Tribune incorrectly stated that \$15,000 from the County's revenue sharing was used by Centro Cultural to help purchase land and a building in Cornelius. The revenue sharing money will be used only for educational purposes. The Centro's house and lot in Cornelius were paid for with money raised at dinners and from other fund-raising activities.

## CAP Goes to County Fair



CAP Prize-Winner

The Washington County Community Action Program set up a booth at the Washington County Fair. Each night there were drawings made for prizes.

Colleen F. Ferretti of Forest Grove won a \$10 food certificate from the Hope Food Cooperative in Buxton. A second winner was James H. Dickson of Forest Grove, who received a \$10 certificate which he can use at the Hope Country Crafts Store.

Another winner of a certificate was Claudia Peterson of Hillsboro. She won a \$10 certificate, to exchange at The Mustard Seed, a cooperative crafts store in Tigard. Gloria Mensah of Beaverton took home a \$10 certificate to spend at the V.S.I. Food Cooperative in Tigard.

The final drawing was for the grand prize, won by Barbara A. Asher of the Forest Grove area. The grand prize was an afghan (a hand-made blanket), made at Grandma's Corner, a senior citizens' crafts store.

The V.S.I. Co-op, the Hope Food Co-op and Grandma's Corner were all begun as Community Action projects.

## Cine Mexicano en Television

El primer programa en television presentando peliculas mexicanas y españolas estan saliendo en KOAP-TV Channel 10.

Cine Mexicano es producido por Modesto Rios. El ha cubierto nuevas por todo el estado en español y actividades de diferentes organizaciones Chicanas. Han anunciado reportes de consumidores y entrevistas en español a los hispanos de Oregon.

Cine Mexicano recibe fondos de la Corporation for Public Broadcasting y durara por el total de diez y siete semanas. Si la reacción es favorita, el programa tiene oportunidad de seguir despues de las diez y siete semanas.

Si usted tiene comentarios de Cine Mexicano escriban a KOAP-TV, 2828 S.W. Front Street, Portland, Oregon.

The first program on television presenting Mexican and Spanish movies is now being shown on KOAP - TV Channel 10.

Cine Mexicano is produced by Modesto Rios. He has covered state-wide news in Spanish along with activities of different Chicano organizations. The show has brought consumer reports and interviews in Spanish to the hispanos of Oregon.

Cine Mexicano is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and will last a total of seventeen weeks. If the reaction is favorable, the program has a chance of continuing after the seventeen weeks.

If you have comments about Cine Mexicano write to KOAP - TV, 2828 S.W. Front St., Portland, Oregon.

A. A.



### Film Schedule for August

Sunday, August 17 . . . . . El Cartero del Barrio  
Sunday, August 24 . . . . . Escuelas de Valientez

### Cine Mexicano: Staff

Producer . . . . . Modesto Rios  
Coordinator . . . . . Estella Lerma Hanes  
Asst. Producer . . . . . Gilberto Beanes  
Cameraman . . . . . Art Wright  
Consumer Reporter . . . . . Marjorie Jackson  
Director . . . . . Dick Hammerstrom



The Hope and V.S.I. Food Cooperatives recently held a joint board meeting